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Odd Soviet opening move – the Daniloff gambit

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Soviet Union has acted strangely since the start of the Daniloff affair.

American anger was roused the moment the American reporter was arrested in Moscow. Soviet leaders must have realised beforehand that Americans see journalists as virtually sacrosanct.

The way in which the KGB lured Mr Daniloff into a trap was crude and the espionage accusations levelled at him have yet to sound other than trumped-up.

Both were certain to heighten the sense of outrage in America.

The President assured Mr Gorbachov in a personal letter that Nicholas Daniloff had not been spying. Then a deputy Soviet Foreign Minister publicly said that the United States knew the action against the reporter were justified.

So President Reagan stood accused of lying, and the accusation was levelled by a Soviet official of junior rank.

The more urgently the Americans warned Moscow to release Mr Daniloff, the harder the Soviet line grew. The Russians added to the list of accusations levelled at him, preferring charges in addition to taking him into custody.

It looked as though the Soviet leader was intent on goading the US President with whom he otherwise claims he is keen to negotiate.

In the West earnest attempts have been made to account for all these absurdities, one being that opponents of Mr Gorbachov in the Soviet leadership were trying to scotch his policy.

This explanation is not absurd. There are signs that Mr Gorbachov has encountered resistance among fellow-leaders of the CPSU, but the Daniloff affair is KGB handiwork, and the KGB is Mr Gorbachov's mainstay.

KGB leader Chebrikov is said to be one of Mr Gorbachov's closest associates; he may even be the Soviet leader's foremost ally in the politbureau.

Has the aide suddenly taken to sabotage? The possibility cannot be ruled out, but it is an unlikely one.

A likelier explanation is that the KGB needed to arrest Mr Daniloff as a pawn to exchange for Soviet UN official Gennadi Sakharov, who was in custody in Washington accused of espionage in the United States.

Mr Gorbachov, relying on the KGB leader for support, could hardly refuse Mr Chebrikov this request even though he might have felt uneasy about it.

The objection to this explanation is best posed as a question. Would the benefit to be gained by the KGB stand in a reasonable relationship to the damage suffered by Soviet foreign policy and by Mr Gorbachov?

Or did Mr Gorbachov perhaps stage the Daniloff affair himself, being less than enthusiastic about an imminent superpower summit and keen to then blame the US President for its failure to be held?

This version is preferred by those in the West who see Mr Gorbachov's stated policy of negotiation and of a limited settlement with America as a manoeuvre by which the Soviet leader hopes to gain time and drive a wedge between Western Europe and America.

This explanation has arguments both for and against it; either way, it deserves to be taken seriously.

A further explanation must not be neglected, however. It starts with the argument, noted above, that the KGB feels Gennadi Sakharov's release is urgently needed on an exchange basis.

In agreement with the politbureau Mr Gorbachov is said to have permitted this move, but not against his own conviction; he was expecting there to be no lasting damage to ties with America because President Reagan would arrive, for domestic reasons, at the conclusion that he couldn't afford to call the summit off.

Indeed, the US President would have to give preference to the summit rather than to a response to the Daniloff affair the American press and public would consider sufficiently tough.

If the Soviet leader really has based his approach on this assumption, then he has chosen to run a substantial risk.

Given the way America has so far handled the affair Mr Gorbachov must have grounds for confidence that the Daniloff affair will end on a fairly advantageous note from the Soviet viewpoint.

The American government adopted a contradictory approach from the outset, proving both inconsistent and garrulous.

The sequence went like this: it began by offering to hand Mr Sakharov over to the Soviet UN ambassador in return for the release of Mr Daniloff.

The alleged Soviet spy would then have to report for his trial in Washington.

It was then announced that there would be no deal; Mr Daniloff had to be released unconditionally.

The Americans ended by agreeing to a compromise. Both men in custody, Nicholas Daniloff and Gennadi Sakharov, were handed over to their respective ambassadors.

America is sounding out what the Soviet Union wants in exchange for Mr Daniloff's full release. Mr Daniloff himself constantly called on the US government to end the affair by exchanging him for Mr Sakharov.

If this is what happens Mr Gorbachov's wager, if such it was, will turn out to have been right.

The Soviet leader would be sure to note the fact for future reference.

Johann Georg Reissmüller
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 September 1986)



Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) greets his SPD challenger in next year's general election, Johannes Rau, at the meeting of German Catholics in Aachen, North Rhine-Westphalia, where Rau is Premier. (Story page 4). (Photo: dpa)

Kohl, Chirac, in wide-ranging discussions

The latest Franco-German talks in Paris have scotched the annoying impression that Chancellor Kohl was concentrating Franco-German affairs round Socialist President François Mitterrand despite the return to power of a conservative Premier, Jacques Chirac.

Herr Kohl and M. Chirac talked for more than five hours in the French capital. The cordial working climate, the relaxed atmosphere and friendly way in which the two sides dealt with each other showed that Bonn saw eye to eye with the new French government despite its being opposed to President Mitterrand.

That was badly needed at a time when both countries face a terrorist challenge.

The call on European Community Interior Ministers to confer without delay and reach specific decisions was part of the two governments' answer to the challenge.

M. Chirac and Herr Kohl also agreed to press ahead with the proposed anti-tank helicopter, to decide soon on German participation in the Hermes space shuttle project and to seriously consider the Paris-Brussels-Cologne high-speed rail link.

These moves belied for the time being sceptics who doubt whether the two governments are serious about any of these projects.

They are, and they have put it in writing in a summary of their talks.

That is surely a fine start. Progress will need to be reviewed at the next Franco-German summit at the end of October.

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 11 September 1986)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Another Peres success, but still no breakthrough

Few Israeli heads of government can have achieved so many partial foreign policy successes yet fallen so far short of the crucial breakthrough as Shimon Peres.

His meeting with President Mubarak of Egypt in Alexandria, salvaged at the last minute, presumably as a result of US pressure, was an undeniable success.

So were his surprise visit to King Hassan of Morocco and the first official negotiations with the Soviet Union in Helsinki.

Yet even in Israel they are viewed with a scepticism that testifies to a thoroughly pessimistic assessment of the overall situation.

They took place against the background of what can only be described as a freeze: a confusing interface of crises and wars that makes a solution even to partial problems seem unlikely.

What better proof could there be of the state of relations than the fact that such a harmless detail as the dispute over a few hundred yards of sandy beach near Taba could weigh heavily on *relations for years?*

The play now performing on the political stage in the Middle East may be entitled A Quest for Peace but it is staged against a constant backdrop of bloodshed, so much so that audiences are leaving in disappointment.

US Secretary of State George Shultz is one of those who have chosen not to make a fresh attempt to mediate. Given the international wave of terror against Jews and Americans, military countermoves are likelier than progress in peace moves.

The Israelis have evidently postponed until after the Alexandria summit their retaliation for the Istanbul synagogue murders, but punitive measures are a foregone conclusion and more is involved than a limited retaliatory strike at the despicable backers of Arab terrorism.

Trade Minister Ariel Sharon has already detailed the line due to be taken by the Israeli government once Yitzhak Shamir takes over from Mr Peres as Premier in claiming there to be a direct *link between the latter's peace bids* and the Istanbul murders.

So further peace moves need no longer be expected from Jerusalem once power changes hands in October.

This being so, the Likud block evidently sought at a last-minute Cabinet meeting held hours before the Alexandria summit to rule out concessions on the Palestinian question.

So assuming Mr Peres has no plans to call fresh elections before his agreed term as Premier expires, his leeway for decision-making has declined to virtually zero.

The Alexandria declaration in which such hopes were placed a few months ago would need to have been extraordinarily substantial if further headway was to have been encouraged.

But neither President Mubarak of Egypt nor King Hussein of Jordan nor that constant tactician Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, are powerful enough to grant Mr Peres concessions crucial enough to swing the balance of early elections in his favour.

Fundamental changes are unlikely even to result in Israel's relations with Egypt. The two countries may agree to send their ambassadors back, but there is more to normal relations than that.

Israeli Middle East expert Yehoshua Porath made this clear when he recently rightly noted that cordial ties could not be limited to contacts at government level.

Yet any substantial increase in economic and cultural relations or a growing exchange of people and views is virtually inconceivable as matters stand.

Egyptian leaders cannot afford to make concessions to Israel on account of domestic political pressure, and much the same goes for Israel.

To make any further headway toward peace both the PLO, which continues to

Frankfurter Rundschau

enjoy strong support in the occupied territories, and Israel would need to fundamentally change their basic positions.

Given the power-sharing arrangement in Jerusalem this is as unlikely in Israel as it is among the Palestinians, who are riven by dissent.

Besides, since the break with Jordan the more moderate section of the PLO has long abandoned any initial moves it might have made in the direction of a more realistic approach.

Mr Arafat's shop-window speeches at the non-aligned summit in Harare failed to reverse this trend, especially as the PLO leader publicly endorsed a rapprochement with the radical wing at the same time in Prague.

Jörg Reckmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 September 1986)

Polish amnesties aimed at easing pressure

There are victories that in reality are merely a cover-up for defeats. The news from Warsaw that all political prisoners are to be amnestied may turn out to be a victory of this kind.

Only a partial amnesty — the release of minor Solidarity activists largely unknown both in Poland and abroad — was expected.

Now even such well-known Solidarity *leaders as Zbigniew Bujak are to be re*leased. He was only arrested in May after having gone underground for four years.

This encouraging news is only part of the story. The Polish regime presumably feels Solidarity is, to all intents and purposes, no longer potentially dangerous.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has long preached non-violence and negotiations. He and his friends have realised for some time that the Poles have tired of the struggle.

Where millions used to rally round Solidarity banners only handfuls of people are now prepared to risk taking part in demonstrations.

And to make sure no-one imagines the regime has declared an amnesty because it feels weak, the amnesty was accompanied by a drastic warning.

Over 3,000 people deemed unreliable were subpoenaed by the authorities and warned against further political activities.

General Jaruzelski hopes the amnesty will both ease pressure at home and earn him a political and economic bonus in the West.

Poland is deep in debt and need Western credit, especially political credit. Maybe the Pope will now give General Jaruzelski an audience in Rome; maybe Washington will waive its ban on Warsaw.

The dream of Solidarity has vanished. One can but hope there will now be a succession of improvements in Poland: greater liberalisation leading to more foreign aid and still more domestic freedom.

But the limits are still only too apparent. The Poles cannot move faster, yet alone further, than Moscow will allow them.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 13 September 1986)

Chilean violence reveals a shifting balance

Allgemeine Zeitung MAINZ

Only a few years ago General Pinochet could fairly claim that not a blade of grass stirred in Chile without his knowing about it.

The attempt to assassinate him shortly before the 13th anniversary of the coup impressively demonstrated how strikingly the situation has changed.

Resistance forces are increasingly resorting to violence, to which the Chilean dictator's institutionalised terror responds even more brutally.

There is no way of telling whether political trends indicate an imminent end of the Pinochet era even though former friends may have turned their backs on him in numbers.

The United States for instance has for the first time voted in favour of a UN resolution against human rights violations in Chile, while the White House admits that behind-the-scenes diplomacy has failed to end murder, torture and abduction.

Amnesty International only recently presented proof that General Pinochet's secret police was directly associated with these violations.

CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler is right in fearing escalation by both the government and the left-wing revolutionary Patriotic Front as a consequence of the assassination bid.

He is equally right in generally condemning any use of force. With his first-hand knowledge of conditions in Chile, where he recently called the violation of human rights a declaration of war on the people, he ought to have added that the guerrillas were acting in response to the worst government excesses.

With General Pinochet regularly postponing the transition to "limited democracy" there is scant hope of change.

After the attempt on his life he referred to the choice between Marxism and democracy. He forgot to add that it is he who stands in the way of democratic development.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 9 September 1986)

Dashed hopes of settlement in the Lebanon

After the second meeting of the Lebanese Cabinet following a forcible nine-month pause there seemed to be fresh hope of a settlement for the war-torn country. But hopes proved short-lived.

Fresh abductions took place on successive days, including that of an American married to a Syrian woman who converted to Islam for her sake.

Responsibility has been claimed by the Shia terrorist organisation Holy Islamic Jihad, which has close links with Iran and already holds a number of Americans and French hostage.

In a seemingly deliberate provocation the abductions took place at a time when the ceasefire enforced in Beirut by the Syrians appeared to be bearing first fruit.

The Cabinet meetings were attended by the Druse leader, Kamal Djumblatt, and the leader of the Shia Amal *militia*, Nabih Berri, who had both *long boycot*ted the government.

One reason why the Lebanese government, consisting of equal numbers of Christians and Moslems, resumed work was arguably that the Christians are no longer as strictly opposed as President Gemayel was to the peace plan agreed by Syria with the major militias.

President Gemayel's rejection of the Syrian peace plan led to division and power struggles among Christian politicians and commanders.

The President himself attended neither Cabinet session. Does that mean the Syrians are not prepared to *reacknow*ledge his leadership until negotiations prove a success?

He is unlikely to retire without a fight, so everything still hangs in the balance in Lebanon — as ever.

This is borne out, in the final analysis, by the two abductions. Syria has never succeeded in enlisting the support of all parties and groups in Lebanon at one and the same time.

The abductions may, however, be seen against another background. The simultaneous resurgence of terrorism in many parts of the world could hardly fail to have repercussions in Lebanon, be they in imitation or as part of a concerted action.

The attacks on UN peace-keeping troops also show that forces not interested in a settlement are determined to keep the embers glowing.

It will be no coincidence that the Israelis have intercepted yet *another* boatload of Arab terrorists *who were* obviously planning a spectacular raid, with hostages, in Israel.

As always, the Israelis reacted with an air raid on targets in Lebanon.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 11 September 1986)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Helmut Schmidt bows out with a withering speech

Helmut Schmidt has made his last speech in the Bundestag. Former Chancellor Schmidt, who is not standing in the general election next year, has built up a reputation over 33 years as a speaker with a sharp tongue. His farewell speech, in a budget debate, confirmed his reputation for hard-hitting oratory.

SPD Opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said former Chancellor Schmidt's farewell speech was one of the "grand moments" in the history of the Bundestag.

Schmidt's former colleague when the SPD ruled in coalition with the FDP, Count Otto Lambsdorff — who shares responsibility for bringing that coalition down — showed his deep respect for Schmidt by saying that the speech was "Schmidt at his best".

This second day of the budget debate in the provisional plenary hall in a former waterworks (the Bundestag building is being restored) will not only be remembered because of Helmut Schmidt's final parliamentary appearance.

A further astonishing feature of the debate was that Chancellor Helmut Kohl spent a whole hour answering the questions raised in Schmidt's speech.

The same day another senior MP made his farewell speech — Christian Democrat Rainer Barzel.

Schmidt, 67, from Hamburg, and Barzel, 62, who comes from east Prussia, have similar backgrounds despite all the differences in their personalities.

Both were sons of secondary school teachers, both were lieutenants at the end of the Second World War, and both were students in the early post-war years.

During the 1960s both had photos of former US president John F. Kennedy hanging on their study walls.

The Grand Coalition between the CDU/CSU and the SPD (1966-1969) spared them a direct clash.

In fact, as respective parliamentary party chairmen they became partners who often praised each other.

At the end of two political careers Schmidt, with his eight years as Chancellor and five years as minister in Bonn (Defence, Economics and Finance), has been the more successful.

Barzel can look back on nine years as parliamentary party chairman, two years as party chairman, two unsuccessful candidatures for chancellorship (1972, motion of no confidence and general election) as well as his rise and fall as Bundestag Speaker.

Schmidt again emerged the stronger of the two on their final day in parliament.

Although, as opposed to Barzel, doubts are in order as to whether Schmidt today agrees with his party on all major issues, Schmidt's departure in Bonn was marked by the considerable authority he has acquired inside and outside of his party.

Primarily in concert pitch Schmidt once again pulled out all the stops.

He spoke as a world economist, a strategist of security, an expert on politics in the Federal Republic and in Europe, a custodian of the constitution, and a friend of the trade unions.

He took stock of his personal friendships and acquaintances over three decades, both internationally and in Bonn.

He thanked personal friends such as the Americans McCloy, Burns, Kissinger, Ford, Vance and Shultz.

He then turned to London, Vienna and Rome to praise Callaghan, Kreisky and Pertini.

He also referred to his collaboration with politicians such as Jäger, Heye, Barzel Arndt, Erler and Mende in the early 1950s, when he helped elaborate the concept for the re-establishment of the armed forces in the Federal Republic.

He recalled the rivalry and reconciliation with the CSU politician von Guttenberg.

Ignoring their party-political affiliations Schmidt praised eight of yesteryear's and today's unconventional individualists.

The most impressive aspect of his speech was his Kantian-style final appeal to all democrats:

"No enthusiasm should be greater than the sober passion for practical reason."

Schmidt emphasised that the wealth of his personal parliamentary experience had led to the realisation that democratic politicians should ignore party politics and work together in the national interest.

He cited Herbert Wehner who once said: "Political opposition within a country stimulates democracy. But a relationship of hostility, which many seek and strive for, will finally kill democracy, no matter how innocuous it may initially seem to be.

"Divided Germany cannot tolerate irreconcilably antagonised Christian Democrats and Social Democrats."

This was an excerpt from the speech given by Herbert Wehner on 30 June, 1960, which paved the way for the Grand Coalition which began in 1966.

Helmut Schmidt's wife Hannelore listened to her husband's speech in the tiny VIP rostrum of the makeshift parliament building.

Former CDU Bundestag member Gerd Bucerius, who as publisher of the weekly magazine *Die Zeit* is Helmut Schmidt's new employer, sat next to Hannelore Schmidt.

The SPD parliamentary group gave Helmut Schmidt a standing ovation.

After Economics Minister Martin Bangemann spoke to the assembly Chancellor Kohl made his way to the speaker's rostrum.

Like Bundestag Speaker Annemarie Renger Chancellor Kohl expressed his personal respect for Helmut Schmidt's political achievements in the service of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Unimpressed by Schmidt's political or even rhetorical review, Kohl made some cutting remarks about the rift between Schmidt and the SPD, for example, in the fields of security, economic or even energy policy.

Kohl then concentrated on the SPD and the fact that it will have to do without Helmut Schmidt in future.

Kohl accused the Social Democrats of spreading a mood of depression, pessimism, a fear of the future and of depicting a doomsday scenario.

He advised the SPD not to tell the voters that it's dark and gloomy outside when in reality the sun is shining.

"No-one in this country," said Kohl, "will believe you."

Kohl expressed his hopes that despite many a tough and sharp-tongued clash of opinions democratic parliamentarians would not forget "that we want to serve our Republic."

Willy Brandt was unable to witness Schmidt's farewell speech as he had to attend the inaugural meeting of a North-South foundation he was setting up together with Kurt Biedenkopf (CDU) and Ralf Dahrendorf (FDP).

Schmidt indirectly reproached his former deputy chancellor Hans-Dietrich Genscher by not mentioning his name once during his speech.

Schmidt was most sympathetic towards his "dear colleague Stoltenberg", in spite of his "ultraconservative fiscal policy".

Talking to journalists after the speech Stoltenberg said that although Schmidt had not pulled his punches in some parts of his speech there were impressive sec-

Hannoversche Allgemeine

tions on the basic relationship between political parties and the basic consensus among democrats.

After Barzel concluded his farewell speech later on in the afternoon Schmidt accorded his political rival a last gesture of his personal respect.

Schmidt was the first person to stand up and go across to Barzel to congratulate him.

He was beaten to the handshake by Alfred Dregger (CDU), but got to Barzel before Helmut Kohl.

In his closing remarks Barzel stressed his concern that the discord between democrats today is in danger of becoming greater than the readiness to seek consensus on basic social issues.

After a host of critical remarks on, for example, the state of the divided nation, the relationship between Europe and America and the situation in the Third World, Barzel suddenly said in his typical style:

"Respect instead of ruthlessness is the remedy for success in the free world. The common good today includes our neighbours."

Looking back on his personal parliamentary intercourse during thirty challenging years Barzel asked those who felt that he had offended them in any way for a "generous pardon".

He concluded his speech with the words: "Good luck to all those who follow us, and my blessing and best wishes for our Fatherland."

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 September 1986)

Thanks, folks. Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt acknowledges the applause after his farewell speech in the Bundestag.

Two veterans hand out a debating lesson

Two politicians who have helped shape the face of West German politics since the early fifties, Social Democrat Helmut Schmidt and Christian Democrat Rainer Barzel, have both bowed out.

Both gave their farewell speeches in parliament on the same day — 10 September, which makes it a memorable date in parliamentary history.

The quality of the speeches make the day even more memorable. Both eschewed the prosaic and chose to summarise their time in parliament in colourful terms.

Neither sought to deny his political affinity. Both included some self criticism. And both gave respect to political adversaries.

Both had plenty to say but no one knew in advance what. This was the stuff of which parliamentary debates should be made.

Such speeches cannot be expected during every debate, but politicians should take a lesson and stop resorting to uninspired polemics as soon as the TV cameras arrive. Differences of opinion need not be hushed up.

Even on 10 September variances between Government and Opposition became clear on security policy, and between Helmut Schmidt and the overwhelming majority of the SPD on economic, environment, energy and security policy.

This, however, had no detrimental effect on the style of debating on this memorable day.

This is encouraging food for thought for political parties. *Heinz-Peter Finke*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 September 1986)



Former Speaker Rainer Barzel says his last words in the Bundestag. (Photos: AP)

■ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Catholic meeting begins with a secular wind

Thy Kingdom Come was the motto of the 89th German Catholic Diet in Aachen. This line from the Lord's Prayer surprisingly caused some pre-congress controversy.

Critics felt the motto was too pious and too far-removed from the secular world.

Catholic diets, like their Protestant counterparts, play more roles than one. They are, for instance, gatherings at which politicians and experts review and discuss topical issues and answer questions from the floor.

They are also joint affirmations of faith, made both at mass services and at concerts.

This time the organisers went a little further than usual in transferring the pilgrimage to the relics kept at Aachen Cathedral, an event held every seven years, to the week when the diet was due to be held.

Forty groups of pilgrims converged on Aachen for this occasion, demonstrating that for the faithful life is one long pilgrimage toward the kingdom that is not of this world.

This implication was self-evident to Protestants as well as Catholics, as shown in a comment by Martin Kruse, the Protestant bishop of Berlin.

He said he saw the Catholic motto as a point of common ground for all Christians, something likely to contribute toward the long-range objective of Christian unity.

Aachen was not, for all that, a particularly pious occasion. The 310-page programme of events was full of topical issues, ranging from problems of atomic energy and genetic engineering to unemployment and whether a performance-oriented society does solidarity justice.

Other issues included the protection of life in the making and what Europe is (and what it might yet be).

But none were chosen by chance. The aim was to debate the world's problems against the background of Christian belief.

So the forum on Political Measures to Combat Unemployment (The Catholic Viewpoint) was not an expression of sectarianism.

It was a debate against the background of Catholic social teachings.

The range of views represented is indicated by the attendance of politicians as different in party-political persuasion as Friedhelm Farthmann and Heribert Scharrenbroich.

Social Democrat Farthmann is Labour Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia; Christian Democrat Scharrenbroich is head of the social committees, or working-class wing of the CDU/CSU.

A variety of viewpoints within the framework of a wider consensus has been a hallmark of both Catholic and Protestant diets for years. The hymn book they use is not what counts when one of the 600 speakers is invited to attend; what matters is whether he has anything to say. Ecumenicalism in this sense has been practised for years. It was a matter of course that Eleonore von Rotenhan, president of next year's Protestant diet, spoke in greeting at the Catholic diet. Both are media events, continuously covered by radio and, above all, TV. And there lies a danger. Those who attend the diet in person cannot hope to see more than a small fraction of the roughly 1,000 events. News coverage is inevitably selective, with TV in particular limiting itself to what is considered spectacular and worth screening. Footage of people at prayer or thoughtful faces is not spectacular, so the media image has only a limited bearing on the reality of the occasion as experienced by those who were there.

An uplifting of voices at Aachen. There was also a lot of debate on secular issues. (Photo: AP)

The reality is too vast and varied to be shown in a few seconds on the TV screen. Conversely, picturesque marginal groups appear to be far more important than they really are.

It would naturally be unrealistic to expect politicians not to try and make political mileage out of such an event, especially in a general election campaign year.

How often do they have such a splendid opportunity of being heard and seen nationwide on TV saying a few well-chosen words?

Even so, events of this kind are pointers to the age we live in and not just vanity fairs (although they sometimes seem to be little more than that).

They are events at which what preoccupies people is said, occasions at which what is not otherwise said in public is given an airing.

They are gatherings at which opinions are expressed with a view to gaining the politician's ear — and they gain it too.

Catholic views on the protection of unborn life or on how much is left of constitutional guarantees of protection for the family, as voiced in Aachen, were definitely registered by those who make the laws.

It is doubtless a pity that people of working age are underrepresented. Civil servants are given a day (or days) off and students are given time off, whereas the working person has to take part of his or her annual paid holidays.

But this shortcoming has no really detrimental effect in the long run. Events of this kind are more than a one-day wonder; they have a longer-term effect on both the church and public opinion.

Each church diet is separate and distinctive, with a programme and course of events of its own.

The final assessment of the Aachen diet cannot be reached until everyone has gone home and those who saw it on the spot or followed media coverage have decided for themselves what the overall effect has been.

Henk Ohnesorge

(Die Welt, Bonn, 11 September 1986)

Cardinal's ban on Greens causes a rift

There was prayer at the Catholic diet in Aachen — and argument, in the best sense of the term. Views differed on social policy and on commitments arising from Christian belief.

There is a tradition of debate on social affairs at such events, especially Catholic diets, and Aachen was no exception.

To quote Hans Maier, Bavarian Education Minister and chairman of the central committee of German Catholics, the diet's task is to provide "orientation for our political responsibility."

But what direction is one to take? That, surely, is the cardinal issue, especially now Cardinal Höffner of Cologne has publicly stated that Catholics cannot possibly vote Green.

Does that mean Catholics are not "allowed" to vote for Green candidates in local government and general elections?

Not many are likely to do so in any case, but the cardinal's statement is sure to create upset seen as an official guiding of the Roman Catholic church.

Young people are by no means alone in refusing to follow instructions of this kind, saying the clergy have no right to tell them which way to vote.

Many will recall the 1950s when priests in the pulpit virtually called on churchgoers to vote for the Christian Democrats.

The clergy have every right (and it may be their bounden duty) to warn against party-political programmes that clash with Christian ethics, such as demands for abortion law reform.

But are they entitled to rule out an entire as not fit to vote for? Surely the church is there for everyone.

Sigrid Dilsch

(Mannheimer Morgen, 11 September 1986)

■ PERSPECTIVE

40 years since Byrnes' speech of reconciliation



Forty years ago, on 6 September 1946, US Secretary of State Byrnes spoke to an invited audience of German and Allied guests at the Stuttgart Opera House.

In a headline-hitting speech he outlined a programme of political and economic reorganisation for Germany.

Secretary Byrnes' speech marked a fundamental change of direction in US foreign policy. It finally put paid to American plans for a Punic peace for Germany.

Ideas along the lines of the Morgenthau Plan were abandoned in favour of a policy of reconciliation with Germany.

Mr Byrnes also made it clear that US troops would stay in Germany for as long as occupation forces were required.

It was the beginning of a reorientation of US policy toward the idea of a long-term commitment in Europe, an idea the Russians had been keen to nip in the bud.

A year beforehand Mr Byrnes had offered to sign a 25-year security treaty with the Soviet Union, working mainly on the assumption that the Soviet Union must first and foremost be rid of any fear it might have of a German recovery.

Stalin had rejected the US offer, fearing any such guarantee of Germany never regaining its pre-war strength must lead to longer-term US commitments in Europe.

He had already begun to fight for control of Germany. On 10 July 1946 the Soviet Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav Molotov, first spoke in favour of German unity at the Paris conference of Allied Foreign Ministers.

The writer, Horst Teltschik, is Helmut Kohl's foreign policy adviser and a head of department at the Chancellor's Office in Bonn.

He proposed restoring German political unity as soon as possible and setting up an all-German government.

Secretary Byrnes' Stuttgart speech destroyed any hopes the Soviet Union might still have had that the Americans would soon withdraw from Europe.

It also gave Germans in the Western zones the security of knowing they would not be subject to the same strict reparations regime and elimination of opposition as the Russians were busy introducing in the Soviet Zone.

Today, 40 years later, the Federal Republic of Germany is on the brink of overtaking both the United States and Japan to become the world's leading exporter.

It boasts a stable democracy and a high degree of social security and economic prosperity.

Membership of Nato and the European Community has guaranteed the Federal Republic the longest period of peace and freedom in Germany's history.

Germany today is the leading partner of the United States, a superpower, and a country that enjoys international respect.

Yet 40 years later 300,000 US servicemen are still stationed in Germany and the United States spends $135bn a year on Europe's security.

It does so, moreover, even though the US government's budget deficit has reached a record level of over $200bn.

Small wonder more Americans are calling on the "rich Europeans" to shoulder more of the burden of their own security and a greater share of responsibility in world affairs, thereby easing the burden on the United States.

Given America's own economic and social problems and other priorities in assessing Soviet policy, international terrorism and hot spots such as Nicaragua and Libya, there is a growing inclination among US politicians to pay greater attention to American interests and less to waiting for America's allies to show signs of solidarity.

At the same time a growing number of Americans no longer see us Europeans as the foremost economic, scientific and technological challenge the United States faces.

They feel the balance has tilted clearly in favour of the Pacific Basin, where Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea and Singapore testify to impressive economic and technological dynamism.

Culturally too, Europe has forfeited its leading position in many sectors.

Many intellectuals, especially in the Federal Republic, are breathtakingly arrogant in their attitude toward the Americans, feeling the Old World to be culturally superior to the New.

Yet cultural exchange in many sectors ranging from films and TV and music and literature to the creative arts has frequently come to be a one-way traffic in goods and ideas from the United States to Europe.

Given this state of affairs talk of Europe "holding its own" with a view to gaining greater independence of the United States sounds virtually anachronistic.

The balance of partnership between the United States and European members of the North Atlantic pact is based solely on the weight Europeans carry in world affairs and the contribution they make toward joint security.

In international affairs Europe still plays virtually no role at all. Europeans are most concerned about crises in the Middle East, southern Africa, Central America and South-East Asia.

But their contribution toward a solution of these crises is frequently limited to paper declarations reflecting little more than the lowest common denominator.

That was why Chancellor Kohl's German government joined with France in submitting to the European Community a treaty draft proposing improvements in foreign policy cooperation.

But this must be joined by a greater willingness on the part of the countries concerned to shoulder more international responsibility than they have done in the past.

The 240 million US citizens rightly expect the 320 million Western Europeans to look after their own security and defence first and foremost and to fulfil their alliance commitments.

The Social Democrats' party-political conference resolutions to freeze German defence spending and go back on the decision to lengthen conscription and unanimous decisions taken by the 16 Nato countries are the exact opposite of what might be considered to be in Europe's interest.

They would certainly break the bounds of European solidarity and the North Atlantic pact.

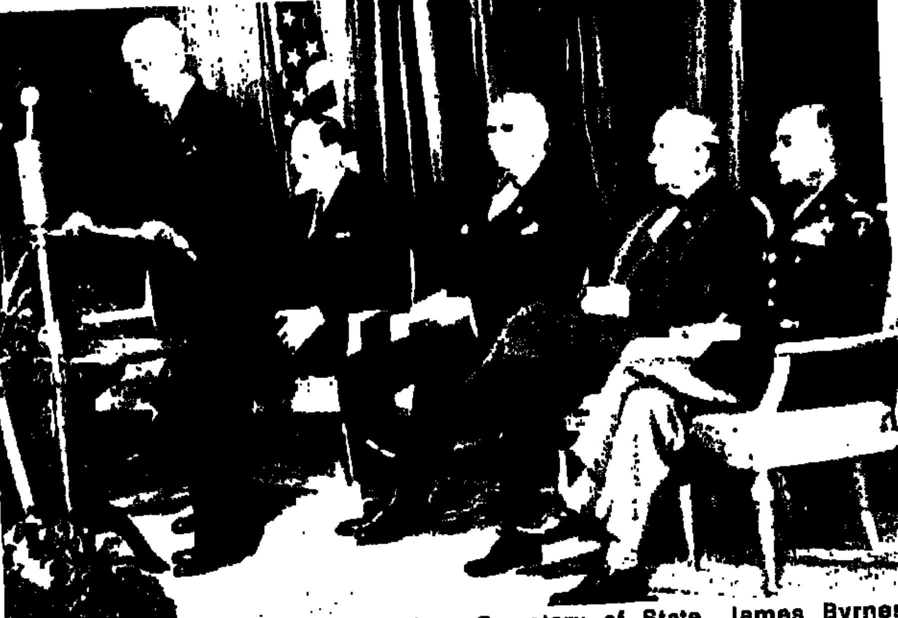
The 320 million Europeans are also, given their purchasing power, the largest market place in the world. The decision by European Community leaders to make the Common Market a full economic union by 1992 is a unique opportunity of achieving this objective.

It must not be an opportunity missed because, say, Germans are determined to keep German beer pure.

What magnificent prospects would be opened up by a free Europe that joined forces? It would be a stable ally of the United States, a self-assured partner of the Soviet Union and, for most Third World countries, a desirable alternative to existing world markets. Ought this idea not to appeal more to our imaginations and emotions?

Horst Teltschik

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 14 September 1986)



Words of reassurance. The American Secretary of State, James Byrnes speaks in the Stuttgart Opera House on 6 September 1946. His speech articulated the American decision to commit themselves to Europe and destroyed Russian hopes that the US would pull out. (Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

Genscher, Burt, recall the Stuttgart address

Forty years ago, US Secretary of State James F. Byrnes' made his historic speech in the Stuttgart Opera House. This month, the Opera House again rang with applause: the occasion was a speech by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher thanking the United States for an act of friendship barely a year after the war.

The Baden-Württemberg *Land* government held an anniversary gathering to recall 6 September 1946 and the speech that marked a turning-point from punishment of a defeated Germany to reconstruction of destroyed Germany.

Richard Burt, US ambassador in Bonn, spoke to 1,100 guests outlining the significance of Mr Byrnes' speech.

Forty years ago, he said, most people in the Western zones of Germany had to make do with a diet of 1,000 calories a day, which was less than they needed to survive.

At the political level the Russians were opposed to both drafting a peace treaty and setting up a central administration for Germany.

In other words, Mr Burt said, Moscow wanted to keep Germany and its population as hostages.

Small wonder that older people in particular still gratefully recall Mr Byrnes' speech of hope promising Germany an honourable place among the free nations.

But the reactions of a few young people invited to attend the Stuttgart ceremony showed that the memory of both Mr Byrnes' conciliatory gesture and the opprobrium in which Germany was held have paled over the years.

One 18-year-old Stuttgart student said it was all new to him. The ceremony itself testified in part to changes that have taken place over the past 40 years.

In 1946 the music was played by a US military band; this time it was the Württembergisches Staatsorchester, conducted by Dennis Russel Davies.

Mr Byrnes' audience was largely military. Forty years later evening dress predominated.

Current problems besetting German-American relations are not raised on such occasions, but Mr Burt sounded a warning note, saying there must be no distortions.

Challenges must be neither underestimated nor overrated and seen as catastrophes. The "common political visions" shared by Germans and Americans, as first made apparent in Mr Byrnes' speech, must be reactivated.

Herr Genscher called terrorism an issue on which Europeans and Americans were "in the same boat."

Baden-Württemberg Premier Lothar Späth called for closer ties between the Federal Republic and the United States, given that their relations were the bedrock of peace in Europe.

There must not, however, be a crisis of confidence in Germany in the United States merely because Bonn was on good terms with the East.

The turning-point in US policy heralded by Secretary Byrnes in his Stuttgart speech was, Herr Späth said, a commitment and a yardstick for the future.

Marshall aid had been a textbook example of successful development aid, triggering an unprecedented economic recovery.

Had it not been for this US policy the host city of Stuttgart might, he said, have stood a chance of becoming little more than a holiday resort in 1946.

Peter Reinhardt

(Mannheimer Morgen, 8 September 1986)

■ THE WORKFORCE

Rising demand for skilled workers, reveals survey

RHEINISCHE POST

A well-trained workforce is becoming more crucial for small and medium-sized firms trying to compete in the market place, says a survey by Industriekreditbank (IKB).

A poll of 1,236 firms reveals a growing demand for skilled workers and a persistently poor demand for unskilled.

Manufacturing firms in particular expect a marked increase in hiring skilled staff over the rest of this year and in 1987.

About 45 per cent of the firms polled will be increasing their workforce in 1986 and a third of the manufacturing firms surveyed plan another increase in 1987.

One in four firms in the building industry and one in six in the commercial sector will be taking on new labour this year.

The IKB survey indicates that the job profiles of vacancies today are completely different to those of a few years ago.

The launching of new products on the market, the modernisation of production plant, the introduction of new information technologies and the extension of research and development have raised job qualification demands at all levels and in all sectors.

Some firms have already adapted by upgrading their staff.

Others have had to do replace employees by more qualified people, especially firms which have mainly been employing unskilled labour.

The survey confirmed that workers with better qualifications are less likely to lose their jobs than the unskilled or semi-skilled.

The number of salaried employees and skilled workers employed increased steadily between 1980 and 1985. The number of semi-skilled and unskilled workers was drastically reduced up until 1982 and equally drastically increased thereafter.

A well-trained workforce become an increasingly significant competitive factor for the firms surveyed.

Within just a few years the share of job vacancies for workers without professional qualifications fell by a third to just 29 per cent, whereas the share of job offers for skilled workers increased from 54 per cent in 1979 to 71 per cent in 1985.

The 9,800 vacancies which the roughly 1,200 firms had to fill during the last five years only 4,600, or less than half, were reported to the labour exchanges.

The IKB survey revealed that many firms felt that this was not the best way to find the qualified labour they were seeking.

Even the smaller firms only reported two-thirds of their job vacancies to the labour exchange.

Survey findings indicate that there are more than twice as many job vacancies for skilled workers than recorded in official statistics.

Only one in five of the workers who filled a job vacancy was sent by the labour exchange.

According to the survey, job advertisements and spreading the word around are regarded as more productive.

Almost half of the vacancies filled in the smaller firms (with a turnover figure of up to DM50m), the more medium-sized firms (turnover: up to DM250m) and the larger firms (turnover: over DM250m) were filled this way, 26.4 per cent via job advertisements alone.

Just under 18 per cent of all new appointments resulted from the initiative shown by the workers themselves and 14.3 per cent from the taking on of trainees.

The IKB draws a number of conclusions from the survey.

First of all, workers are generally urged to adapt to the increased job qualification demands. This particularly applies to young people.

Sound training is more important than ever before. Older employees must also show greater readiness to extend their knowledge and skills and take on completely new tasks.

The greatest willingness to adapt is expected of the unemployed.

Above all those without any professional qualification or with qualifications for jobs which have no future are more or less doomed to permanent unemployment if they remain inflexible and unwilling to learn new skills.

Firms are called upon to do more to upgrade their staff.

In 1985 DM10bn was already spent on further training.

In addition, firms must show greater interest in part-time employment.

The government and labour exchange officials should also step up retraining and further vocational training efforts.

Politicians should continue to improve the investment climate, especially by lowering taxes and reducing high incidental wage costs.

Franz Specks

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 4 September 1986)

Top CDU man appeals to trade unions

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Kurt Biedenkopf would not object to being called a pioneer of unconventional ideas in the CDU.

He has now appealed to the German Trade Union Federation DGB to view employers as its major opponent and not the government in Bonn.

His remarks were intended to ease the almost institutionalised conflict between the conservative parties CDU and CSU and the trade unions.

Biedenkopf pointed out that the government was elected by a parliamentary majority and therefore by many trade union members too.

Especially in the Rhine and Ruhr region, said Biedenkopf, the trade union movement has strong Christian traditions which must be adequately incorporated in a unified trade union organisation.

During the early post-war years Konrad Adenauer did what was within his power to ensure the sociopolitical significance of the trade unions by supporting the parity-based codetermination system in the mining, iron and steel industries.

After this period, however, the DGB moved closer and closer to the social-democratic SPD.

This not only cast doubts on the DGB's impartiality, but also disappointed many trade union members.

It is difficult to distinguish between cause and effect in this development.

The one-sided orientation of the DGB explains why a growing number of CDU members were unwilling to adopt trade union positions, which in turn increased the organisation's one-sidedness.

Biedenkopf's call for more CDU trade union members in leading positions in the DGB is likely to meet with a restrained response.

His support for the continuation of the codetermination system laid down in the *Montanmitbestimmungsgesetz*, on the other hand, will probably be of greater interest to the DGB, even though it is doubtful whether this would be approved by the Federal Constitutional Court.

Biedenkopf is basically falling back on Adenauer's policy of trying to prevent confrontation between the CDU/CSU and the trade unions via carefully calculated concessions.

Today, however, this approach is likely to be rejected by both the junior coalition partner FDP and a number of CDU and CSU members.

What is more, it is already too late to include such ideas in the CDU's election campaign concept.

Nevertheless, Biedenkopf has made one thing clear: the conservative parties need to reconsider their relationship with the trade union movement and seek greater involvement in it.

This presupposes, of course, that the DGB is willing to do some rethinking too.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 4 September 1986)

More goodwill as pay talks get under way

The most serious post-war industrial dispute broke out in 1984 as a result of a breakdown in negotiations by the metalworkers' and engineers' union, IG Metall, over a shorter working week.

Working hours were eventually set at thirty eight and a half, down from 40. Now a second round of talks on the shorter working week are being held, again with IG Metall.

This time, the likelihood of a strike is much less: the collective bargaining strategists in the metalworking industry seem to have learnt their lessons from 1984, when the conflicting parties clashed in an emotionally charged atmosphere.

Today, the situation today is different. There is more give and take as well as goodwill.

Both sides probably realise that a new head-on clash would involve incalculable risks.

In 1984, IG Metall was forced to make concessions to achieve the 38.5-hour working week.

It had to accept the forms of more differentiated and flexible employment laid down by the employers.

The IG Metall, which is the biggest trade union in Germany, would now appear to have realistically realised that any further reduction of working hours cannot be achieved without extending these differentiated and flexible forms of employment.

The final die will be cast at the union's annual meeting in Hamburg in October.

The meeting will also decide whether and by how many votes the current union leader Franz Steinkühler is re-elected. Heated discussions can be expected.

The motion the current union executive committee is expected to forward on this issue no longer rules out the possibility of greater flexibility.

Other motions will seek to achieve quite the opposite and call for a shorter working week without the introduction of new and modern forms of employment.

If the latter wing gains the upper hand in the IG Metall the hands of the new chairman would be tied.

Steinkühler will have to fight hard for support for the more flexible position.

When the employers drew up the collective bargaining agreement on the reduction of working hours in 1984 they knew that the agreement would be terminable in 1986 and that the discussion would then centre on the second and final stage on the path towards a 35-hour week.

It would be no more than logically consistent, therefore, for employers not to fundamentally criticise the shorter working week this time.

Hans Peter Stihl, the chairman of Baden-Württemberg's metalworking industry association and vice-president of the metalworking industry's national employers' federation, has already warned his fellow employers not to adopt a purely defensive position.

If Stihl has his way there will be talks between union and management representatives just after the trade union congress if Steinkühler really is willing to seek a new balance of interests.

After all, both firms and their employees stand to benefit from the new ways of reducing working hours already being practised by many companies.

Whereas the companies are interested in keeping the machines running as long and as inexpensively as possible, i.e. decoupling plant operation time and manpower employment time, workers would be better able to organise their working and leisure time as they please.

The firm Bosch, for example, has come up with a concept which, although involving a working Saturday, gives employees a whole week off every four weeks.

Both sides must now concentrate on negotiating a collective bargaining framework for the numerous plant-specific jobtime organisation models.

The task itself is complicated and conflict-laden enough.

Insistence on a non-working Saturday, for example, and the rejection of other more differentiated possibilities of organising individual working hours could turn out to insurmountable obstacles.

However, there is still a chance that the initial situation on both sides will be different to the rigid stances adopted in 1984.

Both sides would demonstrate greater flexibility by avoiding a dispute over principles.

Jens Peter Eichmeier

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 September, 1986)

■ TRADE

Gatt to change rules and give them teeth

Rules laid down for international trade under the Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) have been honoured more in the breach than observance.

Countries use every trick in the book – and a lot not in it – if they think the rules will jeopardise their own trading position.

Now the rules are to be altered. There are even plans to establish means of enforcement so promises given must be kept.

Gatt seems to have set itself a gigantic task. The problems are immense if the new rules are indeed to have teeth. It has taken 18 months from the decision to make the changes until talks about them began.

The leading Western industrial countries grasped the initiative at the May 1985 Bonn economic summit. The 92 Gatt member-countries have only now started talking in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Pundits do not doubt for one moment that the new Gatt round will take several years. Even non-members see it as extremely important.

The non-member Soviet Union, for instance, is keen to take part, whereas the United States is far from keen on the idea of Russia taking part.

Seven earlier Gatt rounds were largely instrumental in ridding world trade of countless tariffs, restraints and regulations in the 1950s.

Trade then flourished, which was the main reason why economic recovery was more or less continuous.

Nearly all countries, industrialised or developing, derived initial benefit from Gatt, which was why they continued to endorse efforts to scrap further controls.

But free world trade proved in the mid-1970s to be a fair-weather affair. When the economic storm clouds gathered after the first oil crisis, more and more Gatt members set aside their good intentions and set up new trade barriers rather than dismantling old ones.

Growing protectionism is thus seen as a serious threat to economic recovery, especially to leading exporters such as Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

In this context the new Gatt round is of utmost importance. Some countries feel the entire system of free world trade will be in jeopardy unless agreement is reached on new rules.

The old Gatt provisions are felt in

Continued on page 12

World trade triangle
Exports in 1985 (billions of dollars)

Western indust. nations
939
Trade between each other
To the West 291
257 To develop. nations
To the East Bloc 83
63 To the West
Developing nations
126
Trade with each other
To develop. nations 46
31 To East Bloc
East Bloc and China
103
Trade with each other
G 8238
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Protectionism 'threatening'

Protectionism is threatening to slow down world trade, says the annual report of the secretariat of Gatt, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

This trend is making it difficult to create jobs and to find a solution to the debt crisis.

The main danger lies less in the substantial imbalance in trade between the three major trading nations (America, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany).

Exchange rate fluctuations and the debt problem are not the main factor. It is the refusal of individual industrial to adjust to competitive changes in world markets.

Agriculture, textiles and clothing are salient examples. Between them, they account for nearly 20 per cent of world trade. The danger is that protectionism in these sectors will spread to others.

The Gatt secretariat particularly has steel, motors, entertainment electronics, machine tools and semiconductors in mind.

In all these sectors voluntary export restraint arrangements have been made and agreement has been reached on market carve-ups. They are indeed growing increasingly common.

Last year the volume of world trade grew by three per cent, as against 9.5 per cent in 1984, and interim figures indicate a similar growth rate this year.

One main reason for the slower growth rate in comparison with the year before last has been the levelling-out of economic growth in the United States and Canada.

Increases mainly occurred in finished goods trade, which was up by six per cent, whereas trade in oil and mining products was down by 2.5 and in agricultural products by one per cent.

World trade in motor vehicles grew particularly expansively, by 10 per cent, with household equipment, up 7.5, special machinery, up 6.5, other consumer goods, up six, and clothing, up five per cent, flourishing too.

Conversely, trade in non-ferrous metals was down seven, food down six, fuel down 5.5 and commodities down four per cent.

Gatt noted with surprise that the developing countries had boosted finished goods exports more than other exporting countries, reaching a market share of 12.5 per cent in 1985, as against seven per cent in the mid-1970s.

dpa/vwd

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 9 September 1986)

Bid to throw a lifeline to Third World

The Third World is continuing to lose ground in international trade. The position has got so bad that the theory of aid through trade is coming to have little validity any more.

That makes events such as the Partners in Progress trade fair in Berlin even more important. Held mainly to help Third World countries to export to the West, they are best designed to gain developing countries access to industrialised markets.

Salesmanship is a fine art, and at trade fairs it is practised under the watchful eye of the competition. Exporters can see for themselves how competitive they are and what they must still do.

Growth is still considered essential for survival, and this vital process has for some time been made steadily harder for the developing countries.

They are plagued by declining foreign exchange earnings in commodity-exporting countries, the growing debt crisis and ongoing economic weakness in many Third World countries.

The egoism of the haves is a further factor. As one's own problems and worries have increased there has been steadily less widespread a sense of solidarity.

Industrialised countries have sought increasingly often to deal with their own problems at the expense of the developing world. The developing countries are indeed the main victims of burgeoning protectionism.

Not even the Federal Republic of Germany has succeeded in maintaining its level of trade with the developing countries. Five years ago nearly 18 per cent of German exports went to the Third World; last year it was only 12 per cent.

The story is much the same with imports. German imports from Third World countries were down from 20.4 per cent of total imports five years ago to 15.5 per cent last year

This example makes it particularly clear why the 150 or so developing countries are steadily declining in importance as both suppliers and customers, much to the export traders' chagrin.

So development aid is not some kind of charity; it is a means of keeping at peace a world that cannot survive in the long run with such a wide prosperity gap between rich and poor.

An open markets policy must be accompanied by deliberate and growing financial assistance, plus any amount of hard work on minor but crucial details, as at the Berlin trade fair.

This calls for visions, and not just fond illusions. Without them this overwhelming problem cannot be solved.

A new version of Marshall aid is needed, this time for the developing world. Nothing less would be in keeping with the seriousness of the situation.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 3 September 1986)

■ FASHION

Making hay while sun shines on Damenoberbekleidung

At Igedo, Europe's biggest fashion fair, the manufacturers were talking about summer fashions for next year. But women consumers were talking about the expected comeback of classic styles for this northern autumn. This report about the Greatest (fashion) Show on Earth (well, Europe) in Düsseldorf is by Gabriele Herlyn in *Die Welt.* Igedo, by the way, stands for (wait for it) ... Interessengemeinschaft für Damenoberkleidung).

Make hay while the sun shines was probably what Manfred Kronen, the chief organiser of the Düsseldorf Igedo fashion fair thought to himself when deciding to organise something really special for the 150th fair.

For many people the baubles, bangles and beads world of fashion is a glittering fantasy world.

West Germany's rag trade has 188,000 employees, 2,460 factories and a yearly turnover of DM27 billion.

Kronen took the opportunity to underline the international significance of German fashion designers.

Jil Sander, Wolfgang Joop, Reimar Claussen, Beatrice Hympendahl, Manfred Schneider and Caren Pfleger are just some of the designers who have made an international name for themselves during recent years.

Joop and Claussen were both awarded the international fashion prize of the city of Krefeld, the *Goldene Spinnrad (Golden Spinning-Wheel).*

Since 1984 all these designers have regularly been able to present their fashions designs on the Düsseldorf catwalks.

German designers are not so keen on the fantasy-filled creations of their colleagues in France and Italy, which hardly anyone can wear let alone afford.

They concentrate on creating fashion (using only the best materials) which can also be worn by non-avantgardists.

The rather long-winded abbreviation Igedo stands for an even more long-winded monster of the German language: *Interessensgemeinschaft für Damenoberbekleidung* (literally: community of interest for ladies' outer garments).

Over 200,000 buyers from 73 countries come to Düsseldorf each year to find out about the latest fashion trends and select their orders for the coming season from the enormous range of international collections.

The foundation for the fair was laid in March 1949 when 24 firms presented their goods in an old exhibition hall.

Just one year later the number of exhibitors had increased to 300 and by 1955 800 manufacturers presented their fashion products to about 11,000 fashion industry visitors.

During the years of rapidly rising consumption which followed the Düsseldorf Igedo fair became the most important fashion rendezvous in Europe.

The exhibition space was soon too small to cater for exhibitors' demands or to include additional product groups.

The new exhibition buildings allowed Igedo to expand after 1972.

Apart from the ladies' outer garment section including coats, costumes, dresses, smaller accessoires and children's fashions other features were introduced to the "fair of fairs": an international hat and cap stand, Igedo accessoires, Salon Masche International, Igedo underwear and Igedo-Junior.

Over the years ordering in advance has increased to a considerable degree due to factors such as consumer habits, problems in obtaining goods at preliminary manufacturing stages and the splitting up of orders into separate deadlines for individual collection ranges and groups of items.

Igedo 1982 responded to these on-market changes and added three preordering dates for collection premieres to the three already existing events.



Wide belts, long legs: from Berlin designer Sandra Pabst. (Photo: AP)

Between 1970 and 1980 Manfred Kronen and his team turned their Modemesse GmbH into the Internationale Modemesse Kronen KG.

Looking back on his past successes Kronen soon starts talking in superlatives:

"Düsseldorf is culture, Düsseldorf is living, Düsseldorf is metropolis. Düsseldorf is fashion.

"It is located in the centre of the European clothing market with its tremendous spending power.

"27 million consumers within a radius of 150 kilometres.

"In 1983 there were 3,987 newspaper reports on the fair with a circulation of 236 million in the Federal Republic of Germany."

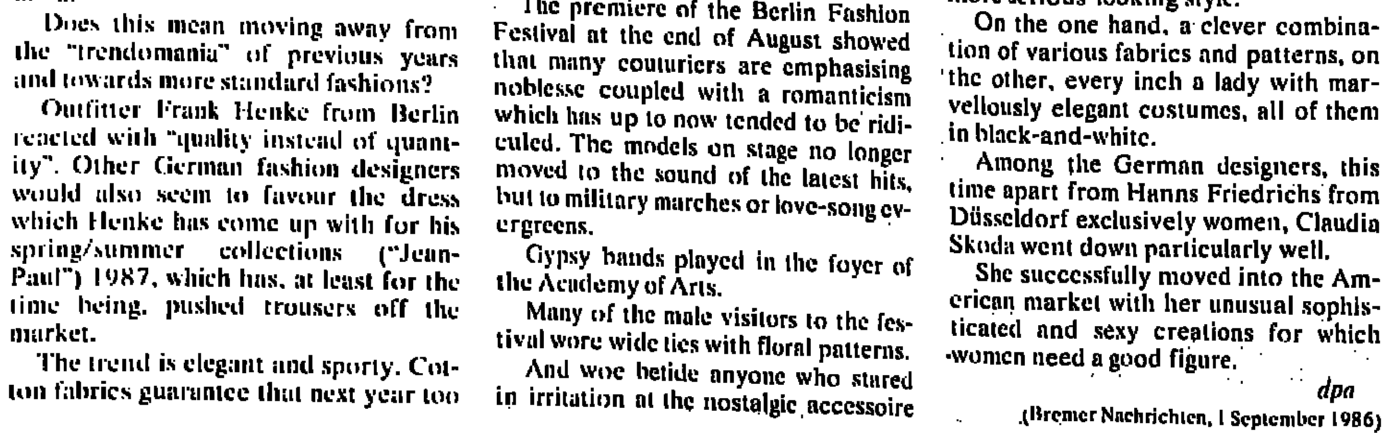
At the moment hardly any other city can compete with Düsseldorf and Kronen in this field.

As Kronen explains: "We were the first to start and we shall always be up front."

Igedo was also the first fair to take the mightly leap across the Atlantic.

In a joint venture with the world's biggest fashion market, Dallas Trade Mart, Kronen hopes to be able to persuade American agents to buy German

Continued on page 9



Bring back that ridiculed romanticism!

Fashion market researcher Hermann Fuchslocher from Düsseldorf, has noticed a growing uncertainty in the fashion trade and among consumers.

Although his research findings revealed that people still go out and buy what they fancy, over half of all West Germans prefer non-seasonal clothes.

Only between 30 and 40 per cent of consumers fill up their wardrobes every six to twelve weeks with some new item of clothing.

If the manufacturers don't want one in two of their clothing items to have to be sold at less than the originally calculated price, says Fuchslocher, they are going to have to react to this situation soon.

Does this mean moving away from the "trendomania" of previous years and towards more standard fashions?

Outfitter Frank Henke from Berlin reacted with "quality instead of quantity". Other German fashion designers would also seem to favour the dress which Henke has come up with for his spring/summer collections ("Jean-Paul") 1987, which has, at least for the time being, pushed trousers off the market.

The trend is elegant and sporty. Cotton fabrics guarantee that next year too there will be plenty of freedom of movement.

Décolleté necklines and daring slits underline femininity. Pastel shades or clear colours — as you like it.

Anyone who feels that this is simply a return to more conservative fashions is mistaken.

The premiere of the Berlin Fashion Festival at the end of August showed that many couturiers are emphasising noblesse coupled with a romanticism which has up to now tended to be ridiculed. The models on stage no longer moved to the sound of the latest hits, but to military marches or love-song evergreens.

Gypsy bands played in the foyer of the Academy of Arts.

Many of the male visitors to the festival wore wide ties with floral patterns.

And woe betide anyone who stared in irritation at the nostalgic accessoire and showed that they were no more than misplaced "philistines" at this show of the fashion avant-garde elite, the Klub der Mode-Avantgarde (KAB).

Although the young KAB members are still struggling for their survival in the business world they enjoy the experimental.

Specialist for leatherwear Hans Weifenbach and his colleague Knut Schaller, who used to specialise in knitwear, joined forces to create the "Telstar" creation — a crazy fashion mix from the seventies.

The KAB female designers Barbara Dietrich and Brigitte Haarke had a more serious-looking style.

On the one hand, a clever combination of various fabrics and patterns, on the other, every inch a lady with marvellously elegant costumes, all of them in black-and-white.

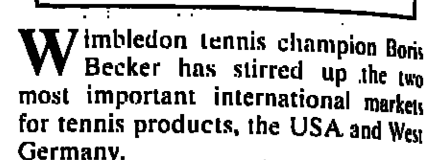
Among the German designers, this time apart from Hanns Friedrichs from Düsseldorf exclusively women, Claudia Skoda went down particularly well.

She successfully moved into the American market with her unusual sophisticated and sexy creations for which women need a good figure.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 1 September 1986)

Boris fills the courts — and the tills



Wimbledon tennis champion Boris Becker has stirred up the two most important international markets for tennis products, the USA and West Germany.

After falling from 35 million to about 25 million within just a few years the number of people playing tennis in the USA is again rapidly rising. Thirty million are out on the courts again.

In Germany the number of tennis rackets being sold was about half a million a year. Then came Boris with the first of his (so far) two Wimbledon titles in 1985. Sales this season are running at between 700,000 and 800,000.

During the International Sportswear Fair (ISPO) in Munich the general secretary of the World Sportswear Industry Association, Pierre Ryser, said "Boris Becker has dragged tennis in the USA out of its doldrums."

The 20 or so leading racket manufacturers expressed their optimism about the future during ISPO.

During this year alone 1.5 million tennis racket frames and 30 million tennis strings will be sold in the USA with its huge leisure market potential of 230 million consumers.

Although things are looking very good in the USA and Germany, however, other European markets, such as Britain and France, are experiencing stagnating or even declining sales figures.

The World Sportswear Industry Association feels that the main reason for this fact in some countries in not so much the lack of tennis courts or the fact that tennis clubs are overcrowded, but the fact that there is a wide range of other leisure activities.

Europeans and Americans manufacturers and their high-quality products have done very well on a market in which there is tough competition with Asian producers.

In Germany, for example, prices fell by between 20 and 30 per cent within just one season.

Asian manufacturers can produce cheaper rackets thanks to the lower level of their wage costs.

In the wake of its contractual ties with Boris Becker the sports firm Puma has already sold 250,000 rackets this year.

Only three years ago only a few thousand rackets were produced for Puma in Taiwan. Today the firm has three production plants.

Günter Adam, the designer of the Boris Becker rackets feels that "tuning the rackets will be the magic word of the future."

He has made the racket with adjustable handle length popular on the market.

The Austrian designer Fischer offers a racket with adjustable string tautness and Bavarian designer Völkl has come up with what is described as an anatomic handle.

The engineers at Kneissl hope that their aerodynamic frame profiles with their extremely low coefficient of drag will be successful on the market.

Herbert Bögel/dpa/vwd

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 5 September 1986)

■ THE SEA

Charting the wrecks in a watery German grave

Frankfurter Allgemeine

German offshore waters are littered with wrecked ships. The German Hydrographical Institute has marked no fewer than 1,400 wrecked ships and aircraft in the German Bight and the south-western Baltic.

By way of comparison, the Federal Republic's oceangoing merchant navy consisted of 318 ships at the beginning of this year.

The institute began its search with the *Atair* and *Wega*, former U-boat hunters built entirely of wood. They were used because of the risk of running into mines.

These two 70-tonners, each with a crew of nine, located hundreds of sunken ships between Borkum and Lübeck Bay before being replaced by larger ships with the same names in 1962.

Albert Berger, the institute's man in charge of nautical surveying and the quest for shipwrecks, feels there must be several thousand wrecks littering the bed of the German Bight alone.

In the final months of the Second World War bombs and mines wrought havoc with what was left of the German navy and merchant fleet, especially in the Elbe, Weser and Ems estuaries and in Kiel Bay. After the war the confluence of three main shipping routes in the North Sea in a fairly limited area led to many collisions.

Wrecks are checked annually. Luminous yellow and black buoys mark the spot to warn shipping. Signs indicate the direction in which the sunken ship or plane lies.

Shipping is also notified in the gazette, which is compulsory reading for all captains. Cooperation with other countries, especially Britain and Scandinavia, is good.

Berger says information is constantly exchanged with East Germany too.

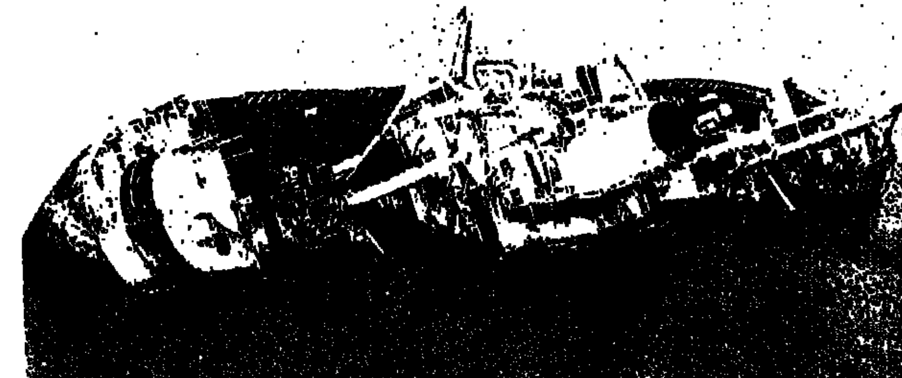
Standing in front of a large chart, he says all main shipping lanes to deep-water ports and in coastal waters have been searched and charted.

The initial need after the war was to eliminate the mine risk by setting up narrow "safe channels" for shipping. It was years before entire areas could be systematically searched.

A sonar mounted to the ship's hull below water-level sounds out the seabed on both sides, locating the distance and direction of wrecks and recording data graphically on board.

Vertical soundings are then taken to determine the minimum depth over the wreck. Known sunken vessels are periodically recharted.

If they are no longer a danger to shipping, having been covered in sand or had their funnels, masts and superstructures detonated, the danger buoys are removed but markings retained in the charts.



British freighter Ondo has lain in the Elbe estuary for 25 years. (Photo: dpa)

Wrecks have been known to have lain on their sides and to have been righted again by undertow and become a danger to shipping again.

Borkum, Wangerooge, Cuxhaven, Kiel and Heiligenhafen are the two search ships' bases. They often work in convoy, trailing a steel searchline over the seabed for smaller obstacles.

An iron cage keeps the line at the right depth. If it is entangled with an obstacle the ships cast anchor and send divers down.

Patrols are maintained throughout the year in keeping with plans drawn up by the German Hydrographical Institute in Hamburg.

A new multi-purpose ship is under construction and scheduled to be taken into service next year. If it is a success, another will follow.

This new pair will then replace the *Atair* and the *Wega*, both 25 years old, and the survey vessel *Süderoog*, commissioned in 1956.

An East German law of the sea expert says about 400 ships a year are lost around the world. He says that in 1945 the wrecks of 2,250 seagoing ships with a combined gross registered tonnage of 1.3 million lay on the seabed in German waters.

He feels there may be over 25,000 wrecks around the British coast, including 5,000 sunk over the past 500 years along the south coast alone.

Everyone who has ever sailed down the Elbe to Heligoland has seen for himself the wrecks of the 10,800-ton Italian freighter *Fides* and the 5,434-ton British freighter *Ondo*. They ran aground on the Grosser Vogelsand quicksands 25 years ago.

All salvage attempts failed. The quicksands have refused to this day to yield their booty.

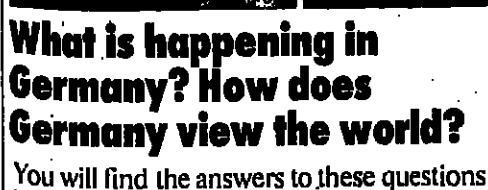
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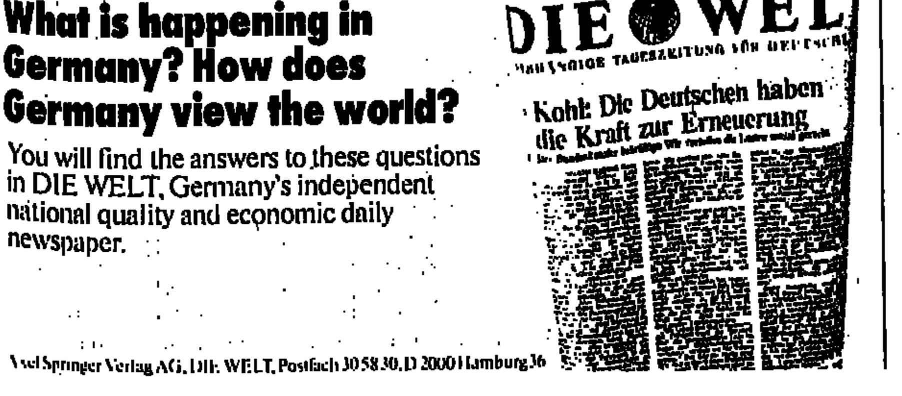
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 September 1986)











Continued from page 8

designs. This autumn sees the premiere on the Dallas catwalks.

Before, however, the celebrating will take place in Düsseldorf.

The 150th Igedo began on 6 September with the German Designer Shows.

The opening gala "Dreams" with displays of haute couture and with prominent guests from the world of politics and fashion, the underwear gala and the fashion ball "Show Theatre" were the sparkling highlights for the high society of the international fashion world.

Gabriele Herlyn

(Die Welt, Bonn, 5 September 1986)

Euro agreement on marine ecology project

Representatives of 11 European countries have agreed at the Alfred Wegener maritime and polar research institute in Bremerhaven to launch the Euromar research project.

The Bremerhaven research institute was entrusted with setting up a secretariat to coordinate the project, which is scheduled to take nine years and cost DM350m.

The Federal Republic of Germany's share of the project costs will be about DM90m.

Representatives of the 11 countries and German industry and scientists mainly discussed European maritime ecological safeguards for future generations at the two-day inaugural gathering.

Euromar, said Federal Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber, presented an opportunity of establishing new international standards in research and maintenance of our marine environment.

Experts in a wide range of scientific disciplines were to outline the long-range objectives of research into marine ecology.

It was for high-tech industry to devise future-oriented, innovative technologies to meet scientific requirements.

Gotthilf Hempel, director of the Wegener Institute and chairman of the project committee, said the European project depended on reciprocal ties between European industry and scientific institutions.

The aim was to develop instruments and techniques for ecological surveys of the sea, especially long-range surveys by means of reconnaissance aircraft and satellite.

Information was to be gleaned about current and swell, about the growth of photoplankton, or small algae, and about pollution.

Automatic measuring buoys were also to carry out constant measurements and either record findings or relay them straight to a research institute.

Processes were also to be devised by which to take readings previous only possible by dint of hard work in scientific laboratories.

Euromar is one of 72 Eureka projects with a combined budget of DM6bn. It was agreed at the London Eureka conference at the end of June as proposed by the Federal Republic.

Other participants are Britain, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Spain and Turkey.

The research concept was drawn up by a German commission chaired by Professor Hempel.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 10 September 1986)

■ THE ARTS

Aesthetic criticism of new Cologne complex reflects a mood to defeat any architecture

The cathedral area in Cologne has been completely redesigned. The centrepiece is the new Wallraf-Richartz and Ludwig Museum building between the cathedral and the River Rhine.

There was tremendous praise in advance, yet the initial response now that the building is finished has been surprisingly carping and sceptical.

The criticism has been mainly aesthetic. It is to do with the location and its monumental surroundings.

Any building next to the magnificent, towering Gothic cathedral is bound to be a risky proposition.

The city-centre site is an emotive issue in Cologne. Too emotive probably for any architecture to get the better of.

The reshaping comes after the demolition of mediaeval buildings in the 19th century and wartime air raids that destroyed their late 19th century successors.

The promenade has been replaced by a tunnel, and a park landscaped by Eduardo Paolozzi slopes down to the river.

In the park the new museum buildings towers toward the *Altstadt* like a boldly designed monument without concealing the filigree arches and proportions of the cathedral, which can now be walked round in entirety again.

The result is a new museum complex including the Romano-Germanic and diocesan museums (and Stefan Lochner's main work, his "Madonna with Violet").



The complex is also a zone of quiet in the heart of the city and a "civic cell" combining many features — intellectual, economic and cultural — that are hallmarks of Cologne.

Planning for the new museum began 17 years ago, but the city basically owes its completion to little short of blackmail (in the best sense of the term) by one of the world's leading contemporary art collectors.

Peter Ludwig, a freeman of the city, bequeathed much of his collection to Cologne on condition that the city built a new gallery to house it.

The bequest is only binding now the gallery has been completed. So Cologne is richer by far after having invested heavily in the new building.

An architectural competition was held in 1975. The winning entry was submitted by young Cologne architects Peter Busmann and Godfried Haberer, competing against extremely prominent fellow-entrants, with a an unusual and far from fashionable building looking out on the cathedral and the Rhine.

They were required to incorporate in the complex a 2,000-seater concert hall, which they did courageously and with a most convincing design.

They dug deep underground, below water level, and covered the concert hall, designed like a Greek amphitheatre but relating to the orchestra stalls and surmounted by a blue marquee roof, with an imposing ground-level square alongside the museum building.

The square, which has been named after Nobel laureate novelist Heinrich Böll, was designed by Israeli artist Dahi Karavan as a cheerful piazza with stones of many colours and a small circular stage for open-air events.

Municipal blurb proudly points out that the Heinrich-Böll-Platz is the first square in Cologne to be designed as a work of art.

Architects Busmann and Haberer succeeded in keeping costs more or less down to the original estimate — surely no mean feat.

The building cost DM278m, three per cent more than first quoted, yet there are no obvious signs of skimping or saving.

The museum, with an enclosed area of 260,000 cubic metres, cost DM204m, the Philharmonie, or concert hall, cost DM74m, toward which the Westdeutscher Rundfunk contributed.

The aim was to construct an "open" museum in which the works on show could speak for themselves, with old and new paintings in interaction.

The Wallraf-Richartz and Ludwig museums are separate and distinct organisationally but there is no exact dividing line on the ground, so mediaeval and contemporary art may face each other in the hall. Exhibits date from about 1300 AD to the present day.

Arguably in view of the nearby cathedral, but also on account of the building's purpose, the architects were keen to avoid a strict, cubic pattern such as makes the Romano-Germanic Museum so boring.

They designed a musical, dynamic monument of glass and titanium zinc on which light and sunlight play colourfully, attractively.

Step by step the individual sections of building point toward the cathedral with their concave shed roofs.

This shed design ensures mild northern light in the exhibition halls and makes the museum a daylight one from which there is a succession of surprising views of the cathedral.

Due to the rhythmic arrangement of the building, exhibition halls vary in height and size, making the museum somewhat labyrinthine.

It is hard to find your way around and even harder to relocate a specific room.

The foyer is generous, almost extravagant in size, and flanked by a magnificent glass-clad museum cafe.

The staircase is gigantic and monumental, as if it were based on Baroque models, although it is clearly designed for visitors en masse.

The exhibition halls branch off from the staircase and lobby. Between them the two museums have on show about one third of their stock, which is almost too overpoweringly much.

The basement and upper storey are the domain of the Ludwig Museum, where works donated by Peter Ludwig predominate, with the emphasis on American and Russian avant-garde art.

Between these two sections housing 20th century art the larger, upper ground storey houses the mediaeval exhibits of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, including the print collection.

They here seem even further apart from their true surroundings than is otherwise the case in museums. They lack mood and a sense of being at home.

The sober light seems to irritate them and deprive them of their aura. The trustees evidently didn't insist on the architects coming up with anything that might be termed atmosphere.

The rooms are more in keeping with modern art, but the juxtaposition of modern American art, concept art and video art in the basement carries little conviction.

The new museum is at its finest on its upper storey, where incunabulas of modern art are on show. They need no atmosphere and flourish in the sober north-facing light.

The museum also houses — on permanent loan — the Agfa photo-historama, one of the most important documentations on the history of photography. The major art library is also accessible to the public for the first time.

Both museums are opening with major new exhibitions. The Ludwig Museum's inaugural exhibition is "Europe/America — The History of an Artistic Fascination Since 1940."

Contrasts

It features relations between art trends on both sides of the Atlantic, and not just in terms of interdependence but of where America and Europe coincide and make similar attempts to solve artistic problems.

About 100 artists from both sides of the Atlantic, including some who are as yet little-known in Germany, are interestingly contrasted in the various exhibition halls.

The Wallraf-Richartz Museum's inaugural exhibition is Masterpieces of Drawing from Leonardo to Rodin, taken from stock. About 150 drawings, ranging from mediaeval illustrations to watercolours, are of superb quality and likely to promote interest in a somewhat neglected section of the museum.

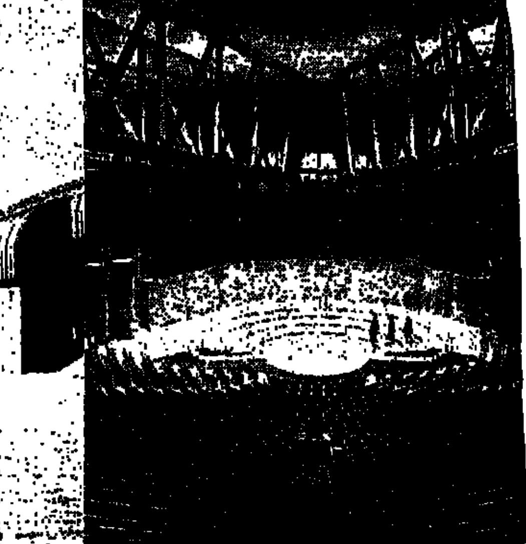
Cologne is well worth yet another visit for art-lovers. Its standing as the artistic capital of western Germany is highlighted by other exhibitions.

They include The Sixties — Cologne's Emergence as an Art Metropolis, From Happening to Art Market.

Forty-four galleries opened exhibitions simultaneously with a joint catalogue. That surely takes some beating.

Werner Schulze-Reimpell

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 3 September 1986)



An emotive juxtaposition: Cologne's new arts complex with the Gothic cathedral in background; right, concert hall with a capacity of 2,000. (Photos: dpa)

Next step is setting up a foundation

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Now the new condominium home of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum and the Ludwig Museum is open, Professor Hugo Borger, director-general of Cologne museums, has set himself another ambitious task.

He plans to combine all museums in the city and set up an independent, self-governing Cologne Artistic Heritage Foundation.

After lengthy negotiations he has, however, abandoned ideas of funding by the *Land* of North Rhine-Westphalia and the city of Cologne, neither of which can afford the outlay.

Professor Borger plans to raise industrial donations and aims at an initial capital of between DM10m and DM50m.

He says he has four-and-a-half years in which to put his plan into effect and is not prepared to go into greater detail at this stage.

He failed five years ago in a previous round of negotiations aimed at funding a foundation. But times — and the mood of them — have changed, he says.

There are plans to amend foundation and tax legislation, making the idea more practicable. Professor Borger is now negotiating with potential industrial donors.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 6 September 1986)

■ THE ARTS

Exhibition banned by Nazis sees light of day 50 years later

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

An exhibition banned by the Nazis in 1936 is now being shown in Bonn as part of a German Artists' Association exhibition.

On 21 July 1936 the exhibition *Painting and Sculpture in Germany 1936* was opened in the Hamburg Arts Society building.

Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels had already banned any independent exhibitions by cultural institutions on 10 April 1935 and every exhibition needed approval by the president of the Reich's Chamber of Fine Arts.

But the organisers of the Hamburg exhibition hoped that the authorities would not risk a row during the Olympic Games year. They were mistaken.

The head of the Reich's Chamber of Culture and the regional *Gauleiter* at first gave the go-ahead, but the president of the Chamber of Fine Arts closed it only ten days later.

It was no surprise. The selection panel had not take existing exhibition bans into account and had selected artists such as Otto Dix, Karl Hofer, Werner Scholz and Alexej von Jawlensky, whose works had been banned, among the 500 exhibitors.

It also chose Nazi artists such as the sculptor, Arno Brecker.

During his speech at the exhibition's opening ceremony the chairman of the Hamburg Arts Society Biermann-Ratjen cautiously said that especially for Germans "not only lifelike art is possible but also an art of imaginativeness, impressions and visions."

Two days before the exhibition was closed the *Altonaer Nachrichten* wrote: "Such an informative exhibition and such a comprehensive review of the more secretive artistic efforts will be difficult to repeat."

One year later the Degenerate Art exhibition took place in Munich and a "purge" began on galleries. Works of art were seized and artists forced to emigrate. Art was once and for all subjected to the terror of the Nazi regime.

The Hamburg exhibition was the last event of its kind by the German Artists' Association, which was disbanded in November 1936.

The Reich's Chamber of Culture justified its decision to ban the organisation by claiming that it "lacked any sense of responsiblity for the people and the Reich".

The ban was the end of an important chapter in the history of German art in the 20th century.

The German Artists' Association, which is holding the Bonn exhibition, was set up in 1904 and soon became an important organisation for the voicing of cultural policy interests.

The list of members of the Association and the artists presented in its exhibitions sounds like an art history almanac.

Erich Heckel, Bernhard Pankok, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Gerhard Marcks, Otto Dix, Karl Hofer, Karl Albiker and Paul Klee were members of the Association's jury in 1931. The German Artists' Association was re-established in 1950.

The exhibition now showing in Bonn is a reminder of events 50 years ago. The first part of the exhibition, called *1936: Banned Pictures*, presents 20 works of art shown at the 1936 exhibition as well as a few which were not shown at that time.

This compensates for the fact that some works of art which have since disappeared or been destroyed.

The second part of the exhibition is entitled *1986: Variety of Pictures*, and is intended as a contrast between the early and late works of those members of the German Artists' Association who were represented at the 1936 exhibition and still alive today (Bräckle, Glöckner, Grimm, Lehmann and Schelenz).

The stylistic variety and variety of subject matter of the works of art banned by the Nazis shows how narrow-minded their concept of art was.

The works presented on Bonn are above all by artists who have made art history: Schlemmer, Nay, Schmidt-Rottluff, Rohlfs, Radziwill, Bargheer, Pankok, Nolde, Pechstein, Munch, Marcks, Kirchner and Jawlensky.

Max Beckmann's *Landungskai im Sturm* (1936) takes up an unusual theme in Beckmann's typically unusual style.

Together with Ernst Barlach's bronze *Der Rächer* and Karl Höfer's *Blumenwerfende Mädchen* (1925) these works of art reflect the different outlooks on the world of the various artists.

Their *weltanschauung* was so full of contrast that any limitation was bound to have a restrictive and stultifying effect.

Although other works such as Rohlfs' *Vertreibung aus dem Paradies* or *Einsamkeit* by Ahlers-Hestermann were not shown at the 1936 exhibition in Hamburg they were completed during the same period and illustrate the situation facing those artists who were unwilling to conform to the dictates of Nazi art.

The Association's chairman Siegfried Neuenhausen made no secret about the fact that the Association had seen better days and that its 440 or so members do not provide a representative picture of contemporary art.

The exhibition in Bonn, the first under Neuenhausen's chairmanship, is an appealing cross-section of styles and generations. Pictures by Gerhard Richter, Bernard Schultze, Ursula, Rupprecht Geiger, Dieter Krieg, Annegret Soltau, Rune Mields, Timm Ulrichs, Anna Oppermann, Johannes Brus, Rafael Rheinsberg, Raimund Girke, Emil Schumacher and Gotthard Graubner provide a vivid insight into the contemporary artistic scene. The fact that the exhibition is in some cases rather unconvincing is due to its presentation. The exhibition is split into two sections: one in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum and the other in the more remote Wissenschaftszentrum.



Karl Hofer in his studio. This picture, taken after 1945, is on show in Bonn.

The criteria for the segregation are difficult to comprehend. Nonetheless, the exhibition is am important event.

It not only provides an insight into the art and cultural policy of the Nazis, but also documents what Nazi policy prevented.

Marie Hüllenkremer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 8 September 1986)

Third Reich cultural twist to new Cologne art gallery

There is a controversial twist to a new art gallery in Cologne which is part of the new museum complex in the Cathedral area.

A driving force behind the gallery is art collector and patron Peter Ludwig — an unconventional person. It is named after him — the Ludwig Museum.

The general mood of jubilation over the gallery has annoyed some of the more professionally malicious, who have tried to find a dent somewhere in Ludwig's armour. Not difficult, being the person that he is.

Soon a rumour began to circulate that Ludwig wanted to see Nazi art displayed in Germany's galleries. This was based on an interview he gave in which he said that German art between 1933 and 1945 should now be shown.

That, of course is not the same thing as referring to Nazi art. He pointed out that art didn't just cease to exist in 1933 and get suddenly reborn in 1945. The boundaries were fluid.

The whole thing now is reminiscent of the embarrassing discussion about a play by Rainer Werner Fassbinder two years ago which caused all sorts of objections.

No one, and that includes Ludwig, is seriously considering dragging Nazi art into the already overcrowded art galleries.

The prominent artistic personalities of the Nazi era, such as Thorak, whose artistic greatness was measured in metres, or Ziegler, who was ridiculed as the master of the German pubic hair, were the exceptions.

German art wasn't as Nazi as the Nazi propaganda made out. And, if it deserves to be called art, it has long since moved into art galleries.

Wherever art merely served the interests of Nazi propaganda, where it helped propagate fanaticism and heroism, where its gigantic proportions simply intimidated and where a contempt of mankind is expressed in granite or oils, it is quite rightly *denied* recognition as art by the galleries.

Art of this kind can at best be shown in an historical museum, in the chamber of horrors of Germany's historical aberrations.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 8 September 1986)

Self portrait (1933-34) by Edvard Munch, who features in the Bonn exhibition of works banned by the Nazis. (Photos: Archives)

■ EDUCATION

Honour for the Grand Old Man of Yiddish studies



Salomo N. Birnbaum's hands and arms shook as he rose to thank the University of Trier for awarding him an honorary PhD — as well they might. Professor Birnbaum is 95.

He was given a rousing hand as the grand old man of Yiddish studies. Now honorary professor at the Maimonides College in Toronto, Canada, he helped to establish Yiddish as a university subject in the early years of this century.

Yet despite his Biblical age he welcomed the opportunity of crossing the Atlantic to accept his honorary degree in person.

Dean Walter Röll of Trier University referred in his speech in Professor Birnbaum's honour to the constant readiness to help and quality of human kindness felt by all who sought the award-winner's advice and support in his academic capacity.

The greatest present beneficiaries of this fund of knowledge and goodwill are the staff who set up the Yiddish studies department at the newly-founded University of Trier in the 1970s.

Trier today is the only centre of Yiddish studies in Europe and one of only three in the world (the other two are in Jerusalem and New York).

A masterpiece

Salomo Birnbaum was a founding father of Yiddish studies. Born in Vienna in 1891, he compiled the first Yiddish grammar during the First World War. It was published in 1918.

In 1921 he took his PhD in Würzburg, submitting a thesis on the Hebraic and Aramaic components in Yiddish.

His Yiddish Grammar was a masterpiece and has since been reissued at regular intervals.

He owed his appointment as a lecturer in Yiddish at Hamburg in the 1920s largely to the grammar's success, but in 1933 he had to leave Germany.

He took up an appointment as professor of Semitic studies in London, retiring to Canada in 1970.

There were plans from 1927, he told his Trier audience, to set up a university department specialising in languages closely associated with German. They included Dutch, Yiddish, Afrikaans, Frisian and Pennsylvania Dutch.

The department was originally to have been designated as specialising in subsidiary languages (from the German viewpoint). Birnbaum preferred the term "affinitive languages," arguing that subsidiary had negative connotations.

The department, in which he was to be in charge of Yiddish studies, was never set up. Instead, just before the Nazis came to power, he planned to set up an institute specialising in Yiddish and other Ashkenazy studies.

He wrote to a wide range of non-Jewish scholars in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, to Germanists, linguists, Hebraists and specialists in Old Testament studies, asking them to sign an appeal to set up an institute along these lines.

Eighty-three didn't even bother answering — and that between February and April 1933!

Ten refused to sign the appeal on various grounds. Seven who agreed to do so were from Switzerland, while 53 German and Austrian academics were enthusiastically in favour of the project.

They included leading German studies specialists ranging from Baesecke and Ehrisman to Leitzmann and Stammler, and their enthusiastic support sounds strange in retrospect, given the time and place.

Nothing came of the project, needless to say. Over 50 years were to elapse before Yiddish studies gained full academic status in Germany.

Not until 1985 was a department of Yiddish studies established in the linguistics and literary studies faculty at Trier University.

This upgrading coincided with the first *Habilitation* (a further PhD required of university lecturers) in Yiddish studies in the Federal Republic of Germany. A previous thesis had been turned down in Hamburg in 1930.

Erika Timm is the newly-qualified lecturer in Yiddish studies at Trier. She has worked there since the mid-1970s alongside Professor Walter Röll, from Hamburg, and Professor Hans Peter Althaus, from Marburg.

Between them they helped to build up the special department of Yiddish studies in the school of *Germanistik* there.

In Jerusalem the emphasis is on Eastern Yiddish literature, in New York on Eastern Yiddish language. Trier specialises in the role of Yiddish in the German-speaking world, so the emphasis is on German studies aspect of Yiddish research.

Special attention is paid to historical grammar and linguistic history, lexicography and the geography and sociology of Western Yiddish.

One project will deal with the origins of the Yiddish translation of the Bible, being particularly well suited to show how Yiddish developed differently to German.

The view of Yiddish that took shape in the 20th century was largely responsible for its survival. Yiddish invariably occurred in connection with the political and social problems of European Jewry.

It came, as it were, to characterise and stand for an entire European ethnic group and its culture.

Professor Althaus specialises in the relationship between the assessment of Yiddish and understanding shown for Eastern European Jews.

He has been able to draw on the interest in Yiddish shown by a wide range of writers, including Karl Kraus, Franz Kafka, Alfred Döblin, Joseph Roth, Egon Erwin Kisch, Walter Mehring and members of Stefan George's group.

They and many others have used Yiddish not only for style but also made a critical appraisal of it.

Althaus has looked into the common features and differences between the views of Yiddish held by these various writers, outlining at the same time the change in status undergone by a civilised language between the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the Second World War and after.

Might greater understanding have been shown for Eastern European Jews if the adverse reputation of Yiddish had been rectified in time?

Althaus has shown in connection with the George group what a leading role the suppression of Yiddish played in the process of assimilation undergone by German Jews at the turn of the century.

Eradication

Everything Yiddish had to be totally eradicated if they were to fully assimilate. The language was set aside on a massive scale. Self-denial was essential if assimilation in Imperial Germany was not to be jeopardised.

Members of the George group virtually eliminated all traces of Yiddish from their poetry, retaining features of it only in their letters and personal notes.

It is striking how readily they used Yiddish for polemical purposes, as a means of caricature, irony or deliberately insulting attack.

Yiddish came to be seen as the epitome of everything that was bad about Jews and Jewry. Karl Wolfskehl alone hoped by means of a process of linguistic symbiosis to link Germans and Jews on the basis of equal cultural partnership. And, as we all know, he hoped in vain.

Wolfgang Stauch-von Quitzow

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 5 September 1986)

Gatt changes

Continued from page 7

some instances to be outdated and in need of updating, enlarging on, putting into greater detail and made more readily verifiable.

If the revision fails to come about, they argue, the general agreement would probably be replaced by a plethora of intergovernmental arrangements or agreements relating to individual products or categories of goods.

This is already the case in trade ties between, say, the European Community and the United States.

That would lead to such a proliferation of various tariffs, regulations, subsidies and paperwork that red tape would be bound to gain the upper hand in both imports and exports.

The consequence — and the gravest danger of all — might then well be that of tit-for-tat arrangements replacing market considerations such as price and quality.

Trade would then be conducted on the basis of political agreements such as "if you let us export our computers to your country, we will allow you to export textiles to ours."

Gatt countries are finding *it very hard* to come to terms with the *new* round of talks. Despite lengthy preliminaries three different proposals have been tabled in Uruguay.

Surprisingly, the fronts are no longer as clear as they once were when developing and industrial countries faced each other at international negotiations. Differences cross lines despite agreement on essentials.

The United States, the European Community and many developing countries would dearly like to see Japan open its home market wider.

All three would then stand to gain from the chance of reducing their deficit in trade with Japan.

Clashes over services are a foregone conclusion too. Services, the fastest-growing sector, have yet to be covered by Gatt provisions, much to the chagrin of the United States, which feels it is losing an opportunity of gaining the upper hand in an open market.

The European Community is nowhere near as clearly in favour of free trade in services, while most Third World countries do not favour the idea at all.

Some developing countries would like to see free world trade not only in high-grade industrial goods but also in commodities, textiles or agricultural *produce*.

They cannot hope to compete with the industrialised world in industrial goods but they feel they would stand a chance of holding their own if there were *free* trade in the other categories.

Farm produce seems sure to be a bone of contention at the Gatt talks, *but for a* different reason. The United *States* (not only, but mainly, the USA) has declared war on agricultural protectionism and is keen to reach agreement on rules governing the farm sector.

America has its sights set mainly on the European Community, which is only able to sell its enormous farm surplus in world markets by means of immense subsidies.

The Europeans are, conversely, opposed to any such new Gatt provisions, suspecting they might jeopardise the entire Common Agricultural Policy.

All concerned will need to show the spirit of compromise in the new Gatt round — and to do so in all sectors. International economic recovery, and not just (more or less) free world trade, is at stake.

Hans Georg Linder

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 8 September 1986)

■ MEDICINE

Goitre, tooth decay, raise a food-additives dilemma

Doctors at the 38th Karlsruhe therapy week called on the government to ease restrictions on iodine and fluoride as food additives and help to combat caries and glandular complaints such as goitre.

There have been countless calls, demands and pleas in the past, but the government has insisted on the overriding importance of pure food and ignored the need for effective protection from caries and goitre.

Fluorine is a trace element that has been controversial since the 1950s. Children's systems can feed fluoride to the teeth, protecting them from caries.

About 300 million people in countries such as America, Russia and Scandinavia drink water fluorinated to prevent tooth decay.

Basle, Switzerland, reports model findings. Within seven years of fluorination of the city's water supply the incidence of healthy teeth among children increased from 28 to 50 per cent.

No such comprehensive precautions have yet been introduced in the Federal Republic of Germany, where objections have ranged from the environmental hazard of fluorinated water to the risk of malignant tumours, bone diseases or mongoloid births.

Doctors point out that fluoride is administered in large quantities without side-effects to bone disease victims.

Critics say water mains cannot be used as medicinal pipelines. Waterworks are not pharmacies. They fear the next step may be an admixture of influenza vaccine or other drugs to tapwater.

Forcible medication is said to be a breach of constitutional rights. Similar arguments apply to the addition of fluoride or iodine to salt.

Iodine fuels the thyroid gland, which needs all the iodine it can get to produce hormones to control growth, bones, metabolism and brain development.

The thyroid gland tries to offset iodine deficiency by enlarging itself. The resulting goitre is not just an eyesore; it can also lead to all manner of glandular complaints.

The Federal Republic of Germany is an iodine-deficient country, especially down south. But up north too, less than half the WHO-recommended daily intake is naturally available.

In Göttingen, Munich doctor Renate Pickardt told the Karlsruhe congress, one per cent of babies are born with goitre.

Even a minor iodine deficiency may, it is feared, retard these children's mental development. Thirty to forty per cent of 15-year-old girls have goitre.

Iodine can bring about dramatic changes, as neighbouring Austria has shown. In 1961 nearly 40 per cent of schoolchildren had outsize thyroids; now only three to four per cent do.

German doctors and nutrition specialists have joined forces in an Iodine Deficiency Working Party to seek approval of the simple, inexpensive precaution taken nearly all over Europe: adding iodine to table salt.

The Food and Drugs Act still vetoes the idea. Iodine-enriched salt is rated a dietary food; as such it must be up to the individual to decide whether or not to use it.

As a result of intensive propaganda iodine-enriched salt now has about 20 per cent of the table salt market, but putting the message across is far from easy.

At Karlsruhe doctors were worried years of work might be counteracted by the Chernobyl aftermath, stable iodine being confused with the radioactive variety.

Warnings that an overdose of iodine tablets could have a harmful effect further heightened fears.

In old people a thyroid gland that is no longer healthy can get out of hand and trigger sickness symptoms in response to a sudden iodine input.

This response is the key objection to general iodisation. Bielefeld doctor Jörg Herrmann told the congress this vague risk could be eliminated by making checks compulsory for about two million old people.

Compulsory medical checks as made in connection with smallpox vaccination

Süddeutsche Zeitung

must not prevent important, useful health precautions.

Thyroid complaints dangerous in old age are, as in earlier life, attributable to iodine deficiency and goitre.

Doctors are at a loss to account for the failure of successes reported from other countries to prompt any response by the German government. Fears of breaching individual freedom are evidently deep-seated.

Given the debate, in connection with health service cost-cutting, on making people who lead unhealthy lives at least pay more, this rejection of preventive safeguards defies understanding.

Drugs must clearly not be added to the food we eat. But iodine and fluorine, added in minute quantities, merely offset a natural deficiency.

At present people are only in a position to take voluntary precautions at home. In public — at kindergarten and in canteens and restaurants — the law requires only natural, iodine-free salt to be used.

Heidrun Graupner

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 5 September 1986)

Immune system drug might help diabetics

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

A drug used to suppress immune responses after organ transplants may help diabetics, says a Düsseldorf specialist.

The drug, Cyclosporin A, has been found to maintain the production of insulin among recent diabetics, thereby improving their metabolism.

These are merely encouraging findings of initial trials. It will be three to five years before we will know whether the drug can be generally used to help diabetics.

Details were outlined to the 38th Karlsruhe therapy week by Professor Hubert Kolb of Düsseldorf, who said the insulin output of patients given Cyclosporin A was boosted to "just about enough."

He assumes the drug must either prevent the destruction of insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas or help damaged beta cells to recover.

Diabetes is caused in young sufferers by immunological inflammation of cells in the pancreas, destroying beta cells.

The first definite success with the new drug was reported by a team of French doctors.

Of 54 diabetics treated with both insulin and Cyclosporin A shortly after the complaint was diagnosed, 13 had normal metabolisms again after nine months of treatment and no longer needed insulin.

Of 52 diabetics given a placebo rather than the drug under test, only three returned to normal. Professor Kolb says intensive insulin treatment in the disease's early stages is known to boost maintenance of beta cells.

He stresses that there can be no doubt whatever that Cyclosporin A maintains the function of beta cells. How long a normal metabolism can be maintained is another matter.

Another issue still uncertain is how long Cyclosporin A treatment must last. Can it be stopped after a while, maybe even several years?

Cyclosporin A treatment is not, he says, without risks. Kidney damage is one possible side-effect.

dpa

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 4 September 1986)

Legal rights wanted for non-smokers

Mannheim cancer specialist Ferdinand Schmidt says non-smokers must be given legal safeguards.

Professor Schmidt, head of Heidelberg University's preventive oncology research unit in nearby Mannheim, says passive smoking cancer risk findings show legal safeguards to be long overdue.

He referred to findings outlined by Oxford research scientist Sir Richard Doll at the international cancer research congress in Budapest.

Sir Richard said half the cases of lung cancer among non-smokers were due to passive smoking. He based his claim on the findings of 10 passive smoking surveys in Japan, the United States, Greece, Hong Kong and Great Britain.

Professor Schmidt also mentioned other surveys showing, for instance, that female non-smokers married to male smokers suffer from lung cancer far more frequently than non-smokers' wives.

Professor Schmidt, who is a member of the expert advisory panel on Smoking and Health to the World Health Organisation (WHO), has accused politicians in Bonn of shunning legal safeguards for non-smokers.

They are afraid, he says, of slaughtering the holy cow that gives milk so plentifully in the form of tobacco duties and party-political donations.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 26 August 1986)

■ HORIZONS

Air hostesses: the oh! so tedious life behind the glamour

Inka wore a colourful sweatshirt and tight-fitting jeans. She could be a student. Nothing indicated that she had a dream career — air hostess.

Since 1930 when United Airlines hired Ellen Church for the run from San Francisco to Chicago, thousands of girls have wanted nothing else than to be air hostesses. It is a typical female career.

The first drinks to be served on board were served by men. Today, a quarter of cabin staff are male.

Two years after being founded in 6 January 1926 in Berlin, Lufthansa hired its first flying waiter. The first five stewardesses didn't come into the service until 10 years later. Today Lufthansa has 5,380 cabin staff around the world, male and female. A Lufthansa spokesman says that sex is no longer important in hiring.

There are 3,500 hostesses and 700 stewards. The rest are made up of senior cabin staff. They are 60 per cent male. That, says the airline, is because there are greater fluctuations among female staff. They have children and become housewives. So fewer are available in the first place for promotion.

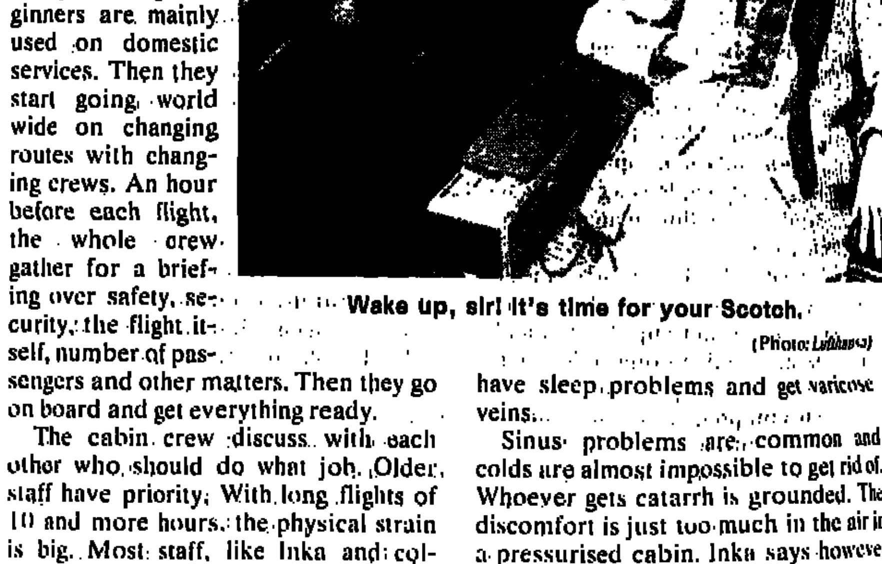
Inka joined Lufthansa two years ago. But being a hostess was never her dream like many other girls. She heard that they "earn very good money." And then she simply applied. The demand is great with about 1,000 applicants a month. The recruiting tests are difficult.

Applicants must have at least an average education. Favoured are applicants who have qualified in a job dealing with the public. The airline training course is just seven weeks. Half of that is in service and half in safety training. Beginners are mainly used on domestic services. Then they start going world wide on changing routes with changing crews. An hour before each flight, the whole crew gather for a briefing over safety, security, the flight itself, number of passengers and other matters. Then they go on board and get everything ready.

The cabin crew discuss with each other who should do what job. Older staff have priority. With long flights of 10 and more hours, the physical strain is big. Most staff, like Inka and colleague Brigitta, after a year begin to have sleep problems and get varicose veins.

Sinus problems are common and colds are almost impossible to get rid of. Whoever gets catarrh is grounded. The discomfort is just too much in the air in a pressurised cabin. Inka says however

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Wake up, girl! It's time for your Scotch. (Photo: Lufthansa)

Airline is sued for grounding a fat girl

Is an air hostess too big at 1.78 metres (5 feet 10 and a half inches) tall and 80 kilos (12 stone eight pounds)? German charter airline Hapag-Lloyd thinks so and grounded her.

But the 28-year-old hostess challenged the company and a court has ruled that she must be allowed to continue flying duties until the case is decided one way or the other.

When the hostess appeared in court, it was a little difficult to believe that she fell below the image demands set by the airline, which is the airline's case. She was big, but she was also attractive.

The Labour Court in Hanover heard that when she joined Hapag-Lloyd (it is a subsidiary of the shipping company of the same name) nine years ago, she was a trim 64 kilos (10 stone). But she started to put on weight when she developed a metabolism malfunction in 1979.

Hapag-Lloyd lawyer Rüdiger Wellhausen said: "Repeatedly we asked her to do something about her weight. We offered her a slimming course for free." But the weight problem remained.

So she was grounded without any reduction in salary.

Hapag-Lloyd's explained their reasons by saying that they had created a certain image among their passengers, which they wanted to maintain.

The company has specific regulations dealing with weight for cabin personnel and the hostess was 10 kilos over the weight stipulated in this Hapag-Lloyd regulation.

Labour Court Judge Klaus Ruhkopf was not particularly impressed by the image argument, pointing out that the rule of thumb regulations concerning weight were not in the work contract.

Now Hapag-Lloyd is turning to questions of safety and has assembled a dummy emergency exit outside the court building.

A spokesman said: "We want to see if she can pass through the emergency exit."

She declined to take part in this experiment and Judge Ruhkopf supported her refusal.

He said that he thought the experiment was unreliable and ruled that the air hostess should continue in her cabin personnel job until a final decision was made.

Hapag-Lloyd, who will appeal, have to pay her DM500 for every day she is not employed in a plane.

Kurt Stolicka
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 9 August 1986)

Night airmail system handles four million letters a day

Every night about 115 tonnes of mail are transported by the night airmail service of the Bundespost. That's about four million letters.

Last year, the service cost 56 million marks. But it meant that 90 per cent of all letters were delivered the next day.

Night flights disturb a lot of people living in flight paths, but the Posts Minister, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, says the importance people place on rapid mail delivery rules out any possibility of cutting the service out.

However, he does have one crumb of comfort: Airbus A310s are being introduced. They make only half the noise of the aging Boeing 737s now being used. They are also easier to load and unload.

Frankfurt is the centre of the night-mail network. Incoming aircraft from the various points of the compass land between 11.50 pm and 00.30 am. Between 1.30 am and 1.40 am, they are on their way again for their various destinations. Lufthansa says that weather is not enough to hinder the service. In the first six months this year, 99.93 of night-mail flights were on time.

Everything runs like clockwork as midnight approaches: on the tarmac are seven Lufthansa and one Pan Am aircraft (Lufthansa has no flights to Berlin under four-power agreement). They have come from Hamburg, Bremen, Cologne/Bonn, Hanover, Stuttgart, Munich, Nuremberg and Berlin. They are full of post office containers and sacks.

The gas turbines have barely come to a stop when maintenance and loading vehicles approach from all sides. The loading hatches are opened. A sort of outsized fork-lift truck arrives and two large containers are pushed on to its loading surface, which is then hydraulically lowered.

The fork-lift truck takes the containers to two flat trollies. In this case, the containers are from Hamburg and are all destined for Munich. When the trollies are all carrying containers, they are linked together in a train, taken to the Munich aircraft, and loaded on by another fork-lift truck.

Despite this, a lot of physical effort is still required for unloading and loading. The Boeing 737, letters and packets are in sacks and have to be unloaded by hand. The 737 has not enough storage space, so sometimes the mail has to be carried in the passenger area.

Lufthansa uses a small portable cloth-covered container with grips for mail transported in the passenger area. It makes handling easier and is clean.

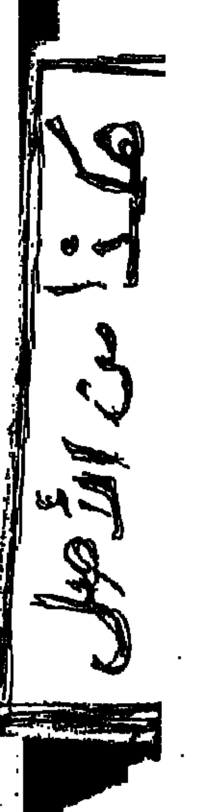
Unloading and reloading a 737 can take between 50 and 100 minutes. The work is done under pressure of time. They work outside in all weathers and there is the constant whine of jet engines to endure.

The Bundespost employs 20 staff at Frankfurt for this night service, but they are not allowed to be used out on the tarmac. Out there, the company running the airport, Flughafen AG, employs 90 and the airlines themselves 530.

The night-mail is one of those services that is only noticed when it doesn't work — but that's not very often.

Benedikt Fehr
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 September 1986)

The Bundespost's night-mail-by-air system began 25 years ago. Here is one of the Boeing 737s disgorging mail at Frankfurt. Airbus A310s are gradually taking over. (Photo: Lufthansa)



■ FRONTIERS

Cleaning teeth is girl's favourite pastime; boys go for trampling on mole-hills

At least one girl in West Germany lists cleaning her teeth as her favourite pastime. Two boys say standing on mole-hills is their favourite hobby.

But most young people in the country have more conservative leisure habits, according to a survey conducted for the Deutsche Volks- und Raiffeisenbanken association.

Swimming, playing soccer, writing and reading top the list among 6 and 16 year olds — an ironic finding considering the media are racking their brains about the psychological and emotional impact of computers and videos on children.

More than 190,000 girls and boys throughout the country were questioned.



Sport emerged as the single biggest activity with 60 per cent of respondents listing it.

Swimming and diving were the most popular — but boys preferred soccer (19 per cent as against 0.9 per cent for girls) and girls were more fond or riding (15 per cent compared with 2 per cent for boys).

Creative hobbies are a long way down the list. Only 15.4 per cent like painting, home mechanics and needlework — and most of them are girls.

Music is liked by 10.6 per cent of the girls compared with 4.2 per cent of the boys.

Some hobbies are out for all — singing, for example. Among 14 to 16-year-olds only 0.3 per cent of the girls and none of the boys ticked it as their favourite pastime.

This is hardly surprising for boys at voice-breaking age. Most prefer to keep their singing mouths shut.

One surprise was that only 0.3 per cent said that TV and the cinema were their favourites.

There are also regional differences. In Hamburg, for example, the favourite hobby is tennis; in the Rhineland-Palatinate it is music; and in Bavaria it is reading.

The musical world can look forward the appearance of the young man who has already started writing his own compositions.

Sixty-two young people of the real hard-working kind claim that their favourite hobby is going to school.

As regards the twenty-nine young Germans who stated that they like "working, helping parents do the housework and cleaning" one does wonder whether the parents didn't help them fill out the questionnaire.

Other kids are more honest: seventy-four of the 190,000 young respondents said that their most favourite hobby is sleeping and lazing about.

Tim Schleider
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 7 September 1986)

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that these physical difficulties are not the worst. Worse is when she unexpectedly has to stay somewhere an extra day when she wants to go home. She lives with her boyfriend. They used to see each other every day. That they now cannot was clear from the start, but that does not lessen the disappointment when something they have arranged falls through.

Private activities have to be organised in the 33 free days a quarter. Washing, housework, organising anything, visiting authorities, seeing friends and relatives. It can't be done after the day's work is done.

Three days off together are about the most. The first priority is to get a lot of sleep and to recover from the time difference. The free days are lived with much more intensity than most people. "When you are home, you are home, completely. Nowhere else. And that is just great."

In foreign countries, most of the waiting time between flights is spent in hotels. It is not possible for most to stay privately outside Europe. While the men often rent a car and take off for 10 days to see some country, the women are dependent on the crew if they don't want to hang round the hotel all day.

Sometimes it is difficult finding company for a shopping expedition or going to a disco. If no one comes, then the waiting time becomes a drag.

The televisions runs hot, the hotel she claims. One stewardess claims that they sometimes see 10 hours of television a day for 10 days at a time. "What else can we do?"

Or, like Inka, they spend a week on the beach at Rio. Knowing people in foreign places helps a lot.

Despite these terrible impositions, Inka says all her expectations about her career have been fulfilled. She loves mixing with people. There are so many different people in every planeload that it is fun. As well, she likes speaking foreign languages. But she doesn't like her uniform. "Look at the collar," she says, with distaste.

The women all are within certain physical dimensions and they must keep within these limits. Besides being good looking, they must be friendly and radiate positiveness. A laugh on the lips, a tanned complexion. After all, most of the customers are men.

Edgar Gansen/dpa
(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 August 1986)

Massive motorbike congregation at full-throttle wedding

A mass wedding ceremony has been held at the legendary Lorelei rock, high above the Rhine near St. Goarshausen.

It took place at the end of a mammoth music and motorbike festival when 16 couples were married.

The leather-clad brides and grooms took their vows in front of 40,000 motorcyclists who had driven to the three-day festival.

The newly-weds festively cut a huge wedding cake in the shape of a motorbike and then raced off full-throttle to their respective honeymoons.

The clergymen didn't want the mass wedding to turn into a cheap entertainment show.

So they invited the motorbike fans to come along to a church service at the Lorelei open-air theatre before the wedding.

The wedding guests drove their flower-adorned bikes through the pouring rain to Kamp-Bornhofen, a place of pilgrimage.

The convoy of about 1,000 motorbikes caused chaos on the roads. The visitors to the festival lived in a huge tent city.

Rock music and the sound of motorbikes echoed from the otherwise quiet spot down to the Rhine way below.

The festival programme included breath-taking motorbike stunts, hang-gliding, parachute jumping, a laser show, helicopter acrobatics and a flood-lit night-time motocross show.

Dieter Buslau
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 25 August 1986)

For faster, for slower; for louder, for quieter ... (Photo: dpa)

Nappy-changing André, 17, gets his diploma

Grammar school pupil André Koslowski, 17, knows how to handle restless babies — he has a piece of paper to say so.

He is the proud possessor of a baby-sitting certificate handed out by the Catholic Family Education Centre in Bonn.

The courses, believed to be the first of their kind in the country, are like a lot of other things, based on an American idea.

Plenty of boys were interested right from the start. And young mothers were also enthusiastic.

The boys practise their new skills on real babies while mothers look on.

The idea behind the courses is to unite theory and practice. To begin with, the boys aged between 14 and 16 learn what a baby-sitter needs: responsibility, reliability, patience and perseverance. Soon after it's time for the "guinea-pigs".

The would-be baby-sitting diploma-holders play with children aged between one-and-a-half and three.

They tell them stories and comfort them. The whole thing is under professional supervision.

On the second afternoon it's time to run through what happened during the first day and talk about the things the boys noticed about the babies and where their biggest problems lie.

Together with practical hints such as the dangers of doors and windows the theoretical part of the course includes an introduction to developmental psychology.

The acid test is on the third afternoon when the boys have to put nappies on and feed three- to six-month-old babies.

The boys are shown how to carry the baby, put the baby to bed, get it ready for a pram-ride, comfort it and many other things.

André Koslowski wanted to overcome his own fears of how to handle a baby, fears which resulted from a lack of the necessary "know-how".

His baby-sitting diploma now makes it easier for him to get baby-sitting jobs.

He looked after a baby for a whole afternoon once a week for just under DM10 an hour.

For mothers the diploma gives them the feeling that they can confidently entrust their babies to these boys.

Gerta Wittstock, one of the educational advisers at the Centre, has also made some interesting observations.

Boys, she feels, can handle babies in a more natural and easy-going way than girls, who immediately slip into the role of mother.

Both girls and boys have learnt that every baby has its own personality and must be treated accordingly.

The baby-sitting course in Bonn satisfies a demand which has often been made but rarely heeded, namely to introduce child upbringing as a separate subject in schools.

As Gerta Wittstock points out: "We learn everything, but not how to be parents."

The Family Education Centre in Bonn has been swamped with inquiries from all over the Federal Republic.

Most of them want to know how similar courses could be organised elsewhere.

In allusion to Wilhelm Busch's saying "It's easier to become a father than to be one", one could say "It's easier to become parents than to be parents".

Barbara Frandsen
(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 31 August 1986)